

The boy who died was Joseph Donnelly, aged 11, of Pecklewell Terrace, Maryport.

HOME NEWS

Government worried by unions' preparations to recruit among the Armed Forces

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The Government yesterday made clear its obvious concern at union pressure to recruit among Britain's 320,000 members of the Armed Forces.

Mr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, in an attempt to dampen union enthusiasm, said union representation might involve "drawbacks without producing any significant benefits for individual Servicemen."

Twenty unions in the Civil Service staked their claim to organize Service men and women more than a fortnight ago when they declared publicly that they were "appropriate" bodies to do the job. It is clear that the atmosphere is warming up for a possible scramble for membership between civil service and private sector unions.

Mr Gilbert's cautiously worded warning was sent in writing to leaders of Civil Service unions on behalf of Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of

State for Defence. It is generally accepted that Mr Mulley's office has been making a number of months ago that he had no objection in principle to unionization of the Armed Forces has initiated the present situation.

Mr Gilbert yesterday gave the Civil Service unions grounds for optimism by stating that "should there ever be any question of allowing unions to represent the interests of Service personnel" those unions with negotiating rights in the Ministry of Defence would have a legitimate interest in the precise nature of such arrangements.

His use of the term "allowing unions" to represent Service men and women is strange, as there is nothing to prevent a member of the Armed Services from joining a union and attending branch meetings, so long as he or she does not strike and if there is no attempt to interfere with disciplinary arrangements.

The industrial and non-industrial Civil Service unions are united in ensuring that

unions with no hold in the public sector should be excluded from such a potentially fertile recruitment area.

Mr Gilbert said: "Quite apart from the political implications involved, the possible effects on the command and disciplinary system of the Armed Forces, the impact on the current arrangements for determining Service pay and the legislative implications would all need most careful consideration."

He believed there was no evidence that collective representation commanded any real support from within the Services, for whom it could, in fact, involve serious drawbacks without producing any significant benefits for the individual Servicemen.

Mr William Kendall, secretary-general of the staff side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, said last night that it was difficult to accept that collective representation would involve serious drawbacks and no significant benefits for Servicemen.

5pc rises not enough, union declares

By Our Labour Staff

Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, set the atmosphere for next week's TUC conference yesterday by announcing that a 5 per cent rise for its 220,000 public sector workers will not be enough.

But a delegate conference in London of industrial civil servants belonging to the union decided to accept a pay offer due last July in line with the 10 per cent Phase Three limit, that ensures an end to unofficial action which disrupted Polaroid bases and would have embarrassed the Government in the run-up to a possible autumn election.

The TGWU yesterday issued a pamphlet, *Our Policy for the Public Sector*, which has been deliberately timed for the TUC conference and which leaves the Government in no doubt that the most powerful union in the public sector will not accept the Phase Four 5 per cent limit in the present bargaining season.

About five million workers are employed by local authorities, the National Health Service, the water industry and the Civil Service, and the TGWU is the latest and most important union to declare that it will have nothing to do with a 5 per cent rise.

Some of the white-collar Civil Service unions representing 500,000 employees, are making contingency plans for protest action should the 5 per cent limit apply to next April's deal.

Tube strike is off after concession by management

Workers at London's Underground stations called off threatened one-day strikes last night after London Transport agreed to abandon plans to cut overtime and services as part of an economy campaign.

The Tube workers, members of the National Union of Railwaysmen (NUR), had intended to begin weekly one-day strikes from next Thursday. Stations would have been closed and services cancelled.

London Transport's change of mind came after a three hour meeting with NUR officials yesterday.

On Tuesday night the union's London district council voted unanimously for the strikes unless London Transport gave an assurance that the economy measures would be withdrawn permanently.

After yesterday's talks with management the district council met again and voted to call off their threatened action. Mr Robert Kettle, the council's secretary, said the union did not know whether London Transport now intended to introduce alternative economy measures.

The original cuts were ordered by the Greater London Council, which wants to reduce Underground operating costs by £8m this year.

No evidence of oil company deals with Mr Smith before UDI

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Shell and British Petroleum are expected to be cleared by the Bingham inquiry of having made secret deals in 1975 to guarantee the Smith regime continued supplies of oil if Rhodesia made a unilateral declaration of independence.

There seems little doubt that arrangements were made by the two companies to continue supplies after sanctions had been imposed and the pipeline connection in Beira in Portuguese Mozambique had been shut.

Mr Thomas Bingham, QC, and his investigators, who began their inquiries 18 months ago at the request of Dr David Carr, the Foreign Secretary, have detailed evidence, not least, according to newspaper reports, from British Petroleum, that sanctions were deliberately and consistently evaded after they had been imposed.

But in July, after the inquiry had heard the highly important testimony of Mr Jorge Jacinto, a Portuguese minister, Mr Bingham still had no evidence that secret deals were made before UDI.

Let us have come into the possession of *The Times* showing Mr Bingham saying that on the evidence available to the inquiry it did not think that Shell or BP indicated that they would continue to supply it even if there was a legal prohibition on doing so.

Nor did the inquiry have evidence to suggest that Shell or BP gave the view that an oil embargo would prove unlikely to be the result of UDI. The possibility of personal opinions having been expressed is something the inquiry feels is almost impossible to investigate.

Our Political Editor writes: The Government's decision on prosecutions in the case of alleged illegal supplies of oil to Rhodesia by British companies could be announced today or tomorrow, rather than next week.

Mr Callaghan and Dr Owen are said to be considering referring the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions and publishing the Bingham report.

Until yesterday there had been uncertainty among ministers whether simultaneous publication of the report with the DPP might not prejudice successful prosecutions. But it has emerged that Mr Callaghan agreed with Dr Owen on the priority to be given to the greatest possible openness in the affair.

The Government's view last night was that the Bingham report ought to be published. The DPP would then have to consider whether he could proceed to prosecutions in the face of predictable protests from defendants.

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Fleet Street loses 105m copies

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Conservatives promised last night that, in government, they would be able to cut taxes and to spend more on social services.

In a television party political broadcast, frontbench spokesmen took the line that the Labour Government cared as much as Conservatives did about those in need, but only the Tories could afford to help them.

Mr William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said, "But it is no good having good intentions if you cannot afford to carry them out."

The broadcast, the third in the series produced by Saatchi & Saatchi, the party's advertising agency, produced as its advertising types a 76-year-old widow, who allegedly could not afford knitting wool, then an arthritic patient who had been waiting years for a National Health Service operation, and finally a young schoolgirl in an over-crowded class.

"Who cares?", an announcer asked, answering that all parties, of course, wanted to care, but only the Tories could afford it.

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Man of toil 'replaced by man of ideas in PLP'

By Ian Bradley

Members of Parliament have become increasingly professional in their background and aspirations and increasingly uncharacteristic of the electorate that they represent, according to a statistical study of the backgrounds of the 1,758 MPs who have sat in the 10 parliaments since the war.

The study, by Mr Colin Mellors, lecturer in politics at Bradford University, is published as a book today.

The most significant trend disclosed in the study is, as Mr Mellors puts it, "the move from men of toil to men of ideas" in the Parliamentary Labour Party. There has been a progressive displacement of manual workers by recruits from the professions, he finds.

The proportion of manual workers among Labour MPs fell from 27.6 per cent in the 1945 Parliament to 12 per cent in the present one. Among MPs elected for the first time, the fall was from 39.2 to 4.6 per cent.

The proportion of recruits from the professions to the PLP has risen from 34.6 per cent in 1945 to 50.8 per cent. The most significant increase has been in the number of teachers becoming Labour MPs: 28.1 per cent in the present Parliament against 12.1 per cent in 1945.

The proportion of university graduates in the PLP was 35.2 per cent in 1945 and is now 57.7 per cent.

The average age of Labour MPs reached a peak of 54.9 in 1955, and is now 49.9. The average age of Conservative MPs rose steadily from 1945 to 1970 but has fallen since then and now stands at 47.5.

Mr Mellors notes that the fact that the Labour Party is recruiting younger MPs provides fewer opportunities for working-class candidates.

He says that the Conservative Party has remained a largely exclusive and homogeneous body. More than four fifths of its MPs are drawn from professional and business occupations. The only discernible trend in the last 10 parliaments has been a swing away from the professions and towards business backgrounds.

The proportion of businessmen among Conservative MPs has risen from 36.7 per cent in 1945 to 46.2 per cent in the present Parliament, and the proportion of those from the professions has fallen from 47.1 per cent to 35.2 per cent. That trend towards businessmen MPs was particularly noticeable when Mr Edward Heath was Tory leader.

The survey finds that 46.7 per cent of all MPs elected in the last 10 general elections were educated at public schools. Among Conservative MPs, the proportion was 77.8 per cent.

The study shows a growing trend for more MPs to stay longer in Parliament and regard themselves as full-time politicians. The average length of service of MPs has gone up from 5.3 years in 1945 to nine years in the present Parliament.

The study shows that there were 10,000 more MPs in 1945, and 22 in October, 1974. The proportion of women in the Commons has remained constant at less than one in 20. The British MP (Saxton House, £7.50).

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Air strength unchanged for years

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

It is true that of the 90 to 100 air defence aircraft stationed in the United Kingdom only about 74 or 75 are assigned at any one time for the defence of Britain's own airspace, as stated by the Press Association yesterday. The others are assigned to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) for air defence at sea.

But the figures have not changed for a number of years and are reasonably well known. The RAF has long been concerned about the air defence of Britain because of the country's importance in wartime as an air base not only for Britain but for the United States as well.

The RAF announced last year that priority was being given to improving our air defence network, including the number of anti-aircraft missiles in Britain and the change of radar installations to give early warning of low-level attack from any direction.

Although there has been talk from time to time of Britain's acquiring more air defence aircraft, including perhaps the purchase of aircraft from the United States, I understand that there are no plans to do that.

The numbers, therefore, are likely to remain as they have been, virtually since 1957 when the so-called Sandys White Paper ran down Britain's conventional air defences at the time when NATO's strategy was based upon the "tripwire".

That strategy supposed that if the Russians invaded the West they would "trip the wire" and be met with a full-scale nuclear defence. That changed, however, to the present NATO strategy of "flexible response" in the late 1960s.

The RAF's difficulty has been that it has never really had a chance to catch up after the run-down. A number of

DEFENCE DATA 1978/79 ANNEX F

STRENGTH OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Front-line Aircraft and Missiles

Serial	Role	Aircraft	UK	RAF (G)	RAF (H)	RAF (F)
1	Strike Attack	Vulcan B2 Buccaneer Jaguar	2	2		
2	Offensive Support	Harrier Jaguar	1(s)	2		
3	Maritime Patrol	Nimrod	4			
4	Reconnaissance	Canberra PR7 Canberra PR1 Vulcan SR2 Jaguar	1		1 (Malta)	
5	Air Defence	Lightning (G) Phantom FGR2 (G) Phantom FG1 Bloodhound Missiles (G) Rapier Missiles (G)	2	2		
6	Airborne Early Warning	Shackleton (G)	1			
7	Air Transport	Hercules VC10 Westland Helicopters	4		1 (Hong Kong)	
8	Tanker	Puma Helicopters (H) (V) Victor K2 (H)	2			
9	Search and Rescue	Westland Helicopters Whirlwind Helicopters	1		1 (C, P, H)	

Notes:
(i) Normal deployment locations as at 1 April 1978 are shown; no account has been taken of temporary or emergency redeployments.
(ii) Squadrons marked (G) are part of NATO's Command Forces. All other aircraft in the UK and RAF (G) and some of the aircraft in Malta are assigned to NATO except the search and rescue helicopters, and those marked (H) which would nevertheless be available for the support of NATO operations.
(iii) Squadrons marked (V) and (H) are assigned to the ACE Mobile Force and the UK Mobile Force respectively.

A page from the White Paper on defence.

RAF officers believe in fact that the present government has done more to improve Britain's air defences than the Conservative government that preceded it.

The biggest improvement will come in the mid-1980s, when the air defence variant of the Tornado swing-wing aircraft comes into service. The Tornado will have much greater range than the Phantom interceptors now in service in Britain, but there will be virtually no change in the numbers.

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The coast under threat, 4: Success of Enterprise Neptune

Cliffs and beaches saved from exploitation

By John Young

Next month the National Trust will dedicate a plaque to its late chairman, Lord Antrim. It will be carved in sandstone near the summit of the Golden Cap, a 600ft hill in west Dorset, bought after an appeal launched in his memory.

Lord Antrim's proudest achievement was Enterprise Neptune, the campaign to protect beautiful stretches of coastline from unsightly development. In 13 years the trust has acquired 200 miles of cliffs, beaches, dunes and wooded inlets, and guaranteed them against exploitation.

When the campaign was announced in 1965 the trust owned 187 miles. Of the 3,000 miles of coast around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, about a third was developed or disfigured beyond redemption, and a further third was of no significant recreational or scenic value.

The remaining 980 miles became the target of attention. Scotland was excluded, because the National Trust for Scotland

is an independent body and because its wider topography is less easily secured. Britain was at the height of the post-war economic boom. Prosperity had stimulated a demand for sites for holiday cottages and caravans.

A lively debate was in progress about the siting of nuclear power stations and oil and chemical plants. But what the trust feared most was such ribbon development as had disfigured much of the south-east coast between the wars. "We could not afford any more Peacocks", a trust official said.

The fear was not exaggerated. When the Trust acquired Pentire Head, Cornwall, the land was divided into building lots. Conservation was in its infancy, and it is doubtful whether any local authorities were prepared to resist planning applications.

Since then, the trust concedes, the climate of opinion has changed. But it still regards itself as the most competent custodian because of its powers to declare land "inalienable" for all time.

It sees one of its main duties as ensuring public access. Countryside Commission grants are conditional upon such access. It differs from such bodies as the Nature Conservancy and naturalists trusts, whose preoccupation is rather the opposite.

However, there is seldom any conflict. Where sites are of outstanding ecological interest and fragility, they are often tourist playgrounds and access is deliberately limited. Moreover, the trust insists that access should not be equated with invasion. Even in the most popular holiday areas, it has restricted car parks and caravans sites and prevented cars from driving down to the beach. "The landscape must come first."

Officials see themselves as traditionalists. So far from wanting a sterile coastland for tourist pleasure, they want to see land continue to be farmed where it has been in the past.

Thus, while they would object to the ploughing of downland, they regard the fields that sweep down to the cliffs of Devon and Cornwall as an intrinsic part of the landscape. Land bought by the trust is often resold to farmers subject to covenants.

Despite international acclaim and emulation, Enterprise Neptune is far from complete. With 400 miles safeguarded, the trust regards the remaining 600 as still at risk.

Much of Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the North Wales coast it has effectively written off, but it is still concerned about such famous beauty spots as Beachy Head and the White Cliffs. It has no compunction in admitting that it would like to acquire Land's End.

It feels that the map of its protected areas may indicate a bias towards Wales and south-west England. There are stretches of Yorkshire, East Anglia and the North-west where it would like to establish a stronger presence.

That is not to say that all those areas are endangered, an official said. "In many places landowners are doing a good job of preservation. But we need to be sure about the future."

Semi-national paper in the North would have many labour and advertising advantages 'Express' bides its time over regional tabloid decision

ern giant; a semi-national with regional emphasis on sport. The potential costs of advertising in such a paper rather than one with sales of four million might be quite appealing. In any case, the choice would be a good idea liked by advertisers.

The prospect of new papers produced by old methods with no attempts at new technology is attractive to Express Newspapers, which might endorse the Express plans as backward step.

They might remember, however, that backwaters might be profitable, the relaunched Sun took several steps backward by the standards established by the up-market Daily Mirror and had been languishing all the way to the bank ever since.

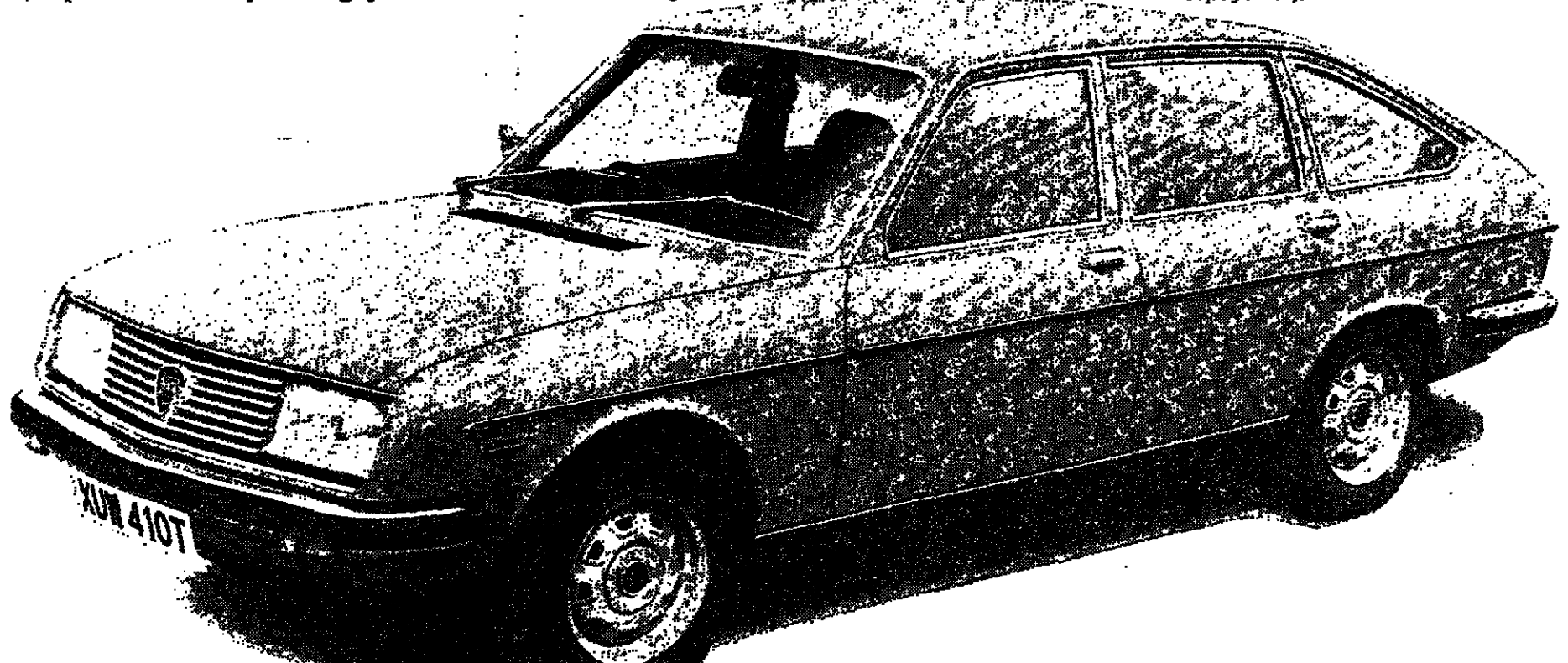
The Spanish Government and Iberia, Spain's national airline, are to dispute the British Government's decision to transfer all air services to the Iberian peninsula to Gatwick. From April 1 because of congestion at Heathrow.

Spain has sent a protest letter to the British Government. Officials in Iberia said in London yesterday that the British Airports Authority could reduce congestion by reallocating flights between the terminals and speeding the introduction of other terminal

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WEST EUROPE

Polish plane hijacked to US airfield in Berlin

From Our Own Correspondent, Berlin, Aug 30

A TU134 airliner of the Polish airline LOT was hijacked by an East German today on a scheduled flight from Warsaw by way of Gdansk to the East Berlin airport of Schönefeld. The pilot was forced to land at Tempelhof airport in the United States sector at 10.04 am.

The hijacker, said to have had a pistol, surrendered to the United States military police immediately after landing. His wife and a child were with him. All passengers on board the airliner were asked to disembark and were questioned by American authorities.

Whether they wanted to stay in West Berlin, or go back. Seven more people decided to stay.

Thirty three East Germans, who wanted to return, were taken by bus to a checkpoint on the border in the afternoon. The airliner left for Poland with 18 passengers, assumed to be Poles, and the crew of five on board shortly before 4 pm.

One West Berlin passenger was allowed to go home. The matter is in the hands of the United States mission as the aircraft landed in the American sector. It is known that some activity took place in which Polish representatives were involved.

Two East German officials tried to enter Tempelhof airfield but were turned back. It is not yet known whether the hijacker will be extradited to whom, or be tried by the Americans. It is expected that East Germany will request his extradition.

Under West German law he would be considered a German with the right of free movement throughout Germany, after having served any possible sentence.

Warsaw, Aug. 30.—Authorities sources in Warsaw said that Poland had approached the West Berlin authorities with a request for the hijacker's extradition.—Agence France-Press.

Economic package likely to upset Danish unions

From Geoffrey Dodd, Copenhagen, Aug 30

A programme of economic improvement involving income, price and profit controls, a two per cent VAT increase and low interest loans for export trades was announced by Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, today shortly after his coalition cabinet of Social Democrats and Liberals was sworn in.

At a brief presentation to the press afterwards Mr Jørgensen stressed that there will be no change in Danish foreign or security policies or in Denmark's attitude towards the EEC.

The overriding objective was to correct an economic imbalance and, while the coalition is a few months short of a majority, the Prime Minister felt confident that it has the strength to implement its policies and also to continue in power to the end of its term in 1979.

The measures are designed to reduce an expected external deficit for 1979 of 9,000m kroner (about £300m) to 6,500m kroner (£500m), trim about 10 per cent off the estimated 1979 budget deficit of 43,000m kroner (£4,300m) and set a generally more favourable trend. Details of the Government's plans will be put before the Folketing tomorrow.

According to some economists

Bonn politician's aide under investigation after defector's claims

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Aug 30

The personal assistant of Herr Egon Bahr, the manager of the Social Democratic Party is under investigation after allegations from a Romanian defector about spies operating in Bonn.

Mr Ion Pacepa, described here as a Romanian politician, disappeared during a visit to Cologne earlier this month and apparently defected to the West. His whereabouts are not being disclosed but the newspaper Bild Zeitung said that he had been in the American Central Intelligence Agency. Material passed on by a spy working for the Romanian secret service in Bonn. The spy, Bild said, was close to a high Social Democratic politician or government member.

The Government maintained today complete silence on the case except for an assertion by the Justice Ministry spokesman that the case did not bear the remotest comparison, as Bild Zeitung had claimed, to the 1974 spy scandal which brought down Willy Brandt as

chancellor. Herr Günter Gail, one of Herr Brandt's advisers, was then found to be an East German spy.

The Social Democratic Party's press office, however, said that Herr Joachim Brouder-Gröger, Herr Bahr's personal assistant was under investigation. Both Herr Brouder-Gröger and Herr Bahr were doing everything to help the authorities in order to clear the matter up as quickly as possible.

A spokesman suggested that the defector had given "inaccurate information" and added that "naturally" Herr Brouder-Gröger would remain at his post.

As the administrative head of the main ruling coalition party, Herr Bahr would, without doubt, be privy to most government secrets. Personal assistants in Bonn are usually in the confidence of the politicians whose offices and affairs they run.

Herr Brouder-Gröger, who is 34, formerly worked in the Foreign Ministry and the Chancellery.

also attacked Señor Tarradellas' car with fists and feet. The police association statement blamed Señor Adolfo Suárez's Government for "discriminate" pardons and amnesties, and said it was impossible to protect Spanish citizens.

However, policemen were pleased by at least one development today. Señor Andrés Gómez Morgade was dismissed as police chief of Coruña only three weeks after his appointment.

The association had complained because of statements by Señor Gómez which it interpreted as justifying the actions of the militant Basque separatist organization ETA.

Spain's police association, reacting to the latest round of terrorist killings, today accused the Government of weakness and said police were "sick and tired" of being used by political forces.

Police unrest was evident at the funerals of two of the four policemen shot dead last Monday in different parts of Spain.

A number of people, some in uniform, jeered Señor Josep Tarradellas, president of the pre-autonomous government of Catalonia, as a police in Barcelona for one of the assassinated policemen. Several men

here the result will be more unemployment and many trade union leaders are extremely displeased.

The new government, which has 21 members or the same number as Mr Jørgensen's first cabinet formed in 1972, appears certain to meet labour trouble in the coming months as unions and employers bargain a new collective agreement for introduction in the spring.

Today 1,100 shipyard workers walked off in protest against the expected policies of the coalition.

The full cabinet list is: Prime Minister: Anker Jørgensen (Social Democrat); Foreign Minister: Henning Christophersen (Liberal); Finance: Knud Heine (SD); Minister Without Portfolio responsible for economic affairs: Per Hækkerup (SD); Environment: Ivar Nørgaard (SD); Religion: Egon Jensen (SD); Culture: Niels Mathiasen (SD); Social: Erling Jensen (SD); Justice: Nils-Lennart Lind (Lib); Education: Poul Søgaard (SD); Fisheries: Svend Jakobsen (SD); Greenland: Jørgen Peder Hansen (SD); Minister Without Portfolio responsible for external policy: Lisbeth Østergaard (SD); Economy and Revenue: Anders Andersen (Lib); Agriculture: Niels Anker Kofod (Lib); Defence: Poul Søgaard (SD); Labour: Svend Aukén (SD); Trade: Arne Christensen (Lib); Interior: Knud Enggaard (Lib); Justice: Erling Jensen (SD); Public Works: Ivan Ransen (Lib).

of this year, about 2,000 of them arrived here by way of East Berlin, as there is no border control in the Western sectors of the city. During the first half of this month alone 605 were registered as seeking political asylum.

Those flown out yesterday and today claimed to be persecuted in their country as members of the Pakistan People's Party. Investigations convinced the West Berlin authorities, however, that hardly any of the Pakistanis could claim to have been persecuted for political reasons.

During the first six months

ing public was inclined to believe the news.

But M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, intervened. Barre might well be costing less, he agreed, but that did not mean it should sell for less. It was a precious commodity and maintaining a high price was one way of rationing it. It was essential for the economic wellbeing of France that energy consumption should be restrained where possible.

The difference of outlook between the Prime Minister and one of his senior cabinet colleagues gave political commentators the chance to speculate on a rift in the Cabinet and the Communist Party a chance to work itself into a fury at the way M Barre, in the words of the paper L'Humanité, had acted because he "realized the political consequences" of a reduction in the price.

M Barre was unperturbed by the attacks and a decision was put off on the issue until today. In the interval he and his government have worked out a compromise which allows for both points of view.

The Government statement

OVERSEAS

Nicaragua city seized by students is bombed

Managua, Aug 30.—National Guard aircraft early today

bombarded and strafed sections of Managua city held by student rebels killing at least five people and starting scores of fires. Heavy rain stopped the bombardment shortly after dawn.

Troops led by the son of President Anastasio Somoza directed heavy machine-gun fire on the municipal palace, overrun by the students, who were said to control two-thirds of the city.

The students strung barbed wire on Sunday throughout the centre of the city declaring it "free territory of Managua". Witnesses said they were poorly armed with home-made bombs, machetes, pistols and rifles.

Residents were calling the outbreak "the war of the youths" and many of them were offering the students food, water and shelter.

The National Guard sent in reinforcements by helicopter yesterday to prevent a complete takeover of the city by the students. The troops were reported to control only the army barracks and some of the suburbs.

Violent anti-Somoza outbreaks were also reported in Diriamba, where one person was reported killed and two wounded in street clashes, and in Jinotepé, where several home-made bombs exploded.

President Somoza said yesterday: "My resignation would interest no one until my term expires, I pledged 'a fair and honest election' in 1981."

He told a press conference, "The issue in Nicaragua is the survival of a democratic government."

"To resign would be to betray the men in uniform who have defended this society with their lives. To resign would be to open this country to chaos and anarchy."

The President added that a five-day general strike was a failure. He claimed that 98 per cent of the small shops in Managua and 50 per cent of those in the interior were open.

But other sources estimated that 40 per cent of supermarkets and petrol stations in Managua had closed. In Leon, Nicaragua's second-largest city, the closure was nearly total.

The Government made its first move to curb criticism by the foreign press. Two Venezuelan journalists identified only as Omar Rafael Find and Señor Omar Marquez, were ordered to leave the country.—UPS.

Malaysia faces extremist threat

From Our Correspondent, Kuala Lumpur, Aug 30

The desecration of Hindu temples by unidentified Muslim extremists this month, following Islamic fundamentalist activities in the Middle East and Iran, could not have come at a worse time for Malaysia.

The Government, assuring the people that the multicultural, multi-religious face of the country would be preserved, has been upset by the rise in the past three years of Islamic fundamentalists, who seem to be attracting considerable support among the young, particularly those in institutions of higher learning.

That this was so became starkly evident recently when five people, including a graduate teacher, were caught desecrating a Hindu temple in Kelantan, 35 miles north of Kuala Lumpur. The guards in the temple, in the ensuing fight, killed four of the intruders and wounded the other seriously.

The almost nightly reports of desecration of temples this month created such unease among the Indian community

that the Government ordered newspapers to play down reports.

The Government is faced with increasing opposition from within the Muslim community for its alleged "un-Islamic behaviour", and is having to walk a tightrope in dealing with the more extremist Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Some of them have succeeded in persuading the faithful to throw away trappings of modern life and there have been reports of Muslims in the rural areas throwing away television sets, chairs and tables. Women undergraduates have dropped out of college because they say the Koran does not approve of women being educated. More Muslim women are taking to the veil and complete purdah.

All this has been blamed on the Dehqan (missionary) movements, but part of the retreat into religion is connected with the realization, rightly or wrongly, that the secular Government (despite its religious overtones) is not able to provide for the needs and wishes of its citizens and religion now provides an alternative.

Bank accounts clue in US corruption inquiry

Washington, Aug 30.—Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents here believe they have found the key that could lead to a significant number of prosecutions for corruption of officials of the General Services Administration (GSA), a United States Government agency, Justice Department sources said today.

The General Services Administration functions combine those exercised in Whitehall by the Property Services Administration and the Public Records Office.

The key, they said, is a large number of bank accounts, most of them in the United States but some overseas, which the agents believe were used specifically by contractors to funnel millions of dollars in payments to GSA officials over the years, in return for contracts the officials had helped the contractors obtain.

According to the sources, the FBI agents believe they are now able to trace the flow of money from specific contractors to GSA officials through the accounts, which are alleged to have been funded with money paid to the contractors for maintenance and repair work they actually had not done.

One source familiar with the investigation said most of the contractors were in the building business looking for GSA officials to take bribes. It was the offi-



Chairman Hua (left) and a Chinese official entering the palace with the Shah.

Mr Hua and Shah meet at palace

Teheran, Aug 30.—Chairman

Hua Kuo-feng and the Shah of Iran today discussed security and political developments in the Gulf region—the largest single source of oil for the West and Japan.

The two leaders opened their first round of talks at the elegant Saadabad Palace, north of Teheran, before noon.

They met alone for about 30 minutes. They were then joined for a further hour by officials, including the two foreign ministers, Mr Huang Hua and Mr Amir Khosrow Afshar.

The Iranian Commerce Minister also joined in, indicating that trade was discussed.

Chairman Hua and the Shah are understood to have reviewed the left-wing coup and its aftermath in neighbouring Afghanistan, which diplomatic sources described as the single most unsettling element in the stability of the region. Recent urban unrest in Iran was also discussed.

Later in the afternoon Chair-

man Hua met Mr Jaafar Sharif-Esmail, Iran's new Prime Minister, for an hour and received ambassadors resident in Teheran. The Soviet ambassador was out of town and was not represented at the meeting.

The Shah and Mr Hua are to have one more round of talks tomorrow.

A cultural agreement and an accord on scientific and technical cooperation are expected to be signed if talks are completed before the visit ends.—UPI and Reuter.

Tony Allaway writes from Teheran: Iran's religious leaders today published a list of demands they say must be met by the new Government before there can be a reconciliation between the two sides.

Atallah Shariyat, a leading religious figure who released the list in the holy city of Mashhad, said the demands had already been relayed to the Government.

Predominant were calls for the abolition of laws contrary to Islamic edicts and future legal conformity with the principles of Islam.

The list also demanded full freedom of expression for religious and other groups, the freeing of political prisoners, the closure of "corrupt and immoral centres" (that is, casinos and bars) and allowing exiled clergy to return.

Just how far the Prime Minister can go in meeting the religious demands is uncertain. A number of concessions have already been made.

But a return to strict Islamic laws would bring into question the status of women, who are supposed to enjoy equality with men.

The need for a speedy accommodation is clear, however, in order to stop the riots which continue to plague the country. Newspapers reported today that 185 people had been arrested in Teheran over the past few days in scattered demonstrations.

representative in the talks, told reporters the proposal "extended guarantees to cover a lot more people and guaranteed promotions for junior journeymen and others."

But Mr William Kennedy, president of the printers' union, said the plan was "really insignificant" and would lead to a loss of 622 jobs, with only 100 guaranteed.

Mr Murdoch, who earlier in the year trimmed his news staff by dismissals and other measures from 450 to 300, said he was willing to be flexible on a formula for job reduction, but only if the union agreed in principle to a long-term reduction of the work force.

The union wants to know how many would be made redundant immediately.—Reuter.

New York printers reject offer by publishers

New York, Aug 30.—Pub-

lishers of New York's three daily newspapers, shut down by a strike for three weeks, have presented new contract proposals which union officials immediately denounced as insignificant.

Negotiations between representatives of the striking printing press operators and The New York Times, the Daily News and the New York Post, which have not been published since August 9, showed the first sign of movement in weeks last night.

The managements have insisted on cutting pressroom staffs by almost half. Union negotiators have interpreted the publishers' position to mean that 50 per cent of the 1,600 union members would face immediate dismissal.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, Australian publisher of the New York Post and the managements' representative in the talks, told reporters the proposal "extended guarantees to cover a lot more people and guaranteed promotions for junior journeymen and others."

But Mr William Kennedy, president of the printers' union, said the plan was "really insignificant" and would lead to a loss of 622 jobs, with only 100 guaranteed.

Mr Murdoch, who earlier in the year trimmed his news staff by dismissals and other measures from 450 to 300, said he was willing to be flexible on a formula for job reduction, but only if the union agreed in principle to a long-term reduction of the work force.

The union wants to know how many would be made redundant immediately.—Reuter.

Vice-president of Egypt sent to Saudi meeting

Cairo, Aug 30.—President

Sadat sent his vice-president for surprise talks in Saudi Arabia tonight, just hours before a meeting to plan his strategy at the Camp David summit.

Mr Hosni Mubarak will see King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd. It was not known how long he would stay.

Egypt's strategy at next week's talks with President Carter and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, will be decided tonight when President Sadat chairs a meeting of the National Security Council.

The council, Egypt's highest policy-making body, will debate a series of documents submitted by Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamel, the Foreign Minister, detailing proposals for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

The semi-official daily Al-Ahram said the council, composed of the Vice-President, foreign, war and interior ministers, Parliament Speaker and other senior officials, would issue a statement on Egypt's position on Middle East issues including the Palestinian question.

The statement would also include Egypt's views on what the newspaper described as "side attempts to belittle the importance of the Camp David meeting and statements containing old (Middle East) settlement plans already rejected by the world and American public opinion as well as Egypt."

Al-Ahram was referring to Mr Begin's statements that he would not present any fresh alternatives to his own controversial peace plan already rejected by Egypt.

This offers restricted self-rule to Palestinians on the West bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip with a continued Israeli military presence.—Reuter.

Mr Sithole rejects talks with guerrillas

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, Aug 30

The Rev Ndabangisi Sithole, one of three black leaders in the Rhodesian transitional government, today rejected Anglo-American proposals for an all-party peace conference with the Patriotic Front guerrillas.

He said at a press conference in Salisbury that such a meeting would weaken the Salisbury agreement. Insisting that the people could "no longer be cheated" Mr Sithole said that elections should be held as planned at the end of the year "or else there will be hell".

He said that even if only 500,000 out of an estimated three million eligible voters went to the polls this would still be sufficient to install a black majority rule government. However, he was satisfied that at least two million people would actually vote.

Accusing Dr David Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, of trying to install Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Patriotic Front leader, as "a King of Zimbabwe", Mr Sithole said: "If he loves him so much why doesn't he make him King of England?"

Meanwhile, the former United States Republican Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Connally, said here today he was disturbed and at a loss to understand the attitude of the United States and British governments towards Rhodesia and the transitional government.

Speaking at the end of a one-day visit during which time he met all four members of the Executive Council, military and police leading personalities, Mr Connally said he was disturbed to see both Britain and America supporting two nationalist leaders, Mr Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe whose guerrilla forces were being armed by Russia.

Soldier killed: For the second time in eight days a New Zealander has been killed in the Rhodesia war. He was named as Trooper Simon John Clark, aged 24, of Rorua, serving with the Rhodesian Scouts (RUS) regiment.

On August 23, Jeanette Douglas, aged 33, of Dunedin, died in a guerrilla ambush.

S Africa and Angola to swap prisoners

Pretoria, Aug 30.—South

Africa and Angola have agreed to exchange prisoners of war, Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said today.

The exchange would take place under the auspices of the International Red Cross, he said in a statement. No date was announced for the exchange.

Angola holds at least seven South African soldiers, captured during the 1975 civil war, when South African troops penetrated deep into the country in support of the Unita (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) movements.

It is not known how many Angolan groups South Africa holds. Since the end of the Angolan civil war South Africa has launched at least one mission into Angola to attack bases of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

During that attack last May, South Africa said it may have come in contact with Angolan troops but did not say whether it captured any.

Mr Brand Fourie, the Foreign Affairs Secretary, refused to comment on whether three Cuban soldiers held by South Africa since the first incursion into Angola, were part of the SWAPO force.

Geneva, Aug 30.—The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed today that it would supervise an exchange of prisoners-of-war between South Africa and Angola.—Reuter.

Wages attacked: Angolan Government troops attacked an Angolan village on the border with South-West Africa causing at least 1,200 refugees to flee to South-West Africa (Namibia), reports from the area said today. (AP reports from Windhoek).

Major-General Jannis Gaidarhuys, the South African commander in South-West Africa, said the attack on Calatán, the Angolan side of the Okavango river, began early yesterday evening.

About 1,200 Angolans fleeing Calatán had crossed into Namibia by this afternoon.

Christian militias to let UN set up observation posts

Jerusalem, Aug 30.—United Nations troops in south Lebanon today reached an agreement with Christian militia forces enabling the establishment of United Nations observation posts near the Israeli border. United Nations spokesman said here today.

The agreement was reached during a meeting today between Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, and Lieutenant-General Ensis Silevuo, the coordinator of United Nations troops in the Middle East.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister today summoned the United States Chargé d'Affaires here to express his concern over Lebanon where Syrian forces are seen here to be trying to wipe out the Christians north of Beirut.

According to usually well-informed sources here, a minority of officials and aides say the situation in Lebanon is sufficiently serious, and the

position of Lebanese Christians beleaguered by Israel is precarious enough, to warrant Israeli military intervention.

They have proposed limited military activity such as Israeli Air Force raids. These would hit Syrian or Palestinian and leftist forces attacking Christian enclaves and areas near Beirut and the Christian-held port of Jounieh north of Beirut.

Sudan warning: President Nimeri of Sudan said in an interview published today that he will withdraw his troops from the Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

He was quoted by the Lebanese weekly magazine As-Sabeel as saying that the Sudanese detachment would withdraw the 30,000-strong force within six months, mandating it by October 31.

"We are not satisfied with the action of the Arab peace force in Lebanon and will therefore renew the term of our troops," he said.—Reuter.

Catch goes down and Surrey profit

SECOND XI COMPETITION
 NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire II v
 Leicestershire II
 SUSSEX: Surrey II v Hampshire II
 BIRMINGHAM: Warwickshire II v
 Gloucestershire II
 LONDON: Yorkshire II v Middlesex II

Tennis

Mottram not consistent enough to win points that matter

Leak, who has ridden five winners, is attached to the Somerset stable of Ian Wardle.

As the developing and industrialized nations move towards a further round of talks on commodities in Geneva this Special Report looks at agriculture and mining in one of the participant countries most richly endowed with natural resources. The report examines Malaysia's role in commodity negotiations and includes articles on each of the primary products, research, finance and transport

MALAYSIA

Commodity king seen as link between two worlds

non Plummer

developing countries a wide and lucrative market for raw materials. It suffers from pre-dependence on one commodity, such as rubber, palm oil or tin, as Nigeria with its mineral wealth at the expense of agriculture, the y of pre-industrial

international conferences on commodities. It sees itself as a bridge between hard-liners among industrialized and developing nations. Nevertheless it has persistently supported the idea of a common fund for commodities and with Australia and Jamaica was instrumental in setting up a Commonwealth technical committee on that subject when the prime ministers met in London last year. The fund, which would finance the creation of buffer stocks in order to reduce the scale of price fluctuations, is one part of the United Nations Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC). The other comprises agreements on 18 individual commodities. Malaysia is also keen to see agreement between Japan and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which it is a member, on stabilizing export earnings. This would be on the lines of the Subex scheme operated by the EEC with its associated states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Malaysia's effectiveness as a negotiator, derived from its importance as a raw material supplier, has been best shown over rubber. It has played a leading part in bringing together exporters, grouped in the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, and end users and it is hoped that an agreement on pricing procedures will be reached by the end of this year. So far rubber provides the only instance of producers and consumers keeping to the timetable for the IPC laid down by the Fourth



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV) at Nairobi in 1976. Of Malaysia's other main exports tin is already covered by an agreement embracing exporters and importers. Malaysia envisages this as coming eventually within the framework of the IPC, with the International Tin Council carrying out day-to-day administration and calling on the Common Fund when it needs to build up buffer stocks. As a timber exporter, Malaysia is a member of the South-east Asian Lumber Producers' Association (Sealpa), which it would like to see evolve into an IPC agreement. The same holds true for palm oil, although a different approach would be needed for a commodity which would deteriorate if stockpiled. Unlike rubber and tin, timber and palm oil are not among the

commodities on which agreement is expected in the foreseeable future. At home the Malaysian Government has emerged as a pioneer among developing countries in its efforts to redistribute national wealth along ethnic lines. Under the New Economic Policy (NEP), formulated in the wake of race riots in 1969, Malays and other indigenous peoples, known as Bumiputras, are to own 30 per cent of corporate equity and within firms occupy about 50 per cent of jobs at all levels by 1990.

The Malays, who account for just under half the population, are estimated to have owned only 2.4 per cent of share capital at the start of the NEP in 1970, compared to 34.3 per cent for other Malaysians (Chinese and Indians) and 63.3 per cent for foreigners. By 1980 the percentages are expected to be 16, 40.4 and 43.6 respectively. It is planned that by the end of the NEP in 1990 Malays should own 30 per cent of equity, other Malaysians 40 per cent and foreigners the remaining 30 per cent.

Of the Malay portion 22.6 per cent will belong to government agencies, which will hold the equity in trust until such time as the savings of individual Malays are sufficient to buy shares. As a result of this policy state-owned bodies are expected to account for about a third of the group at the end of the third Malaysian plan in 1980, a process described as "creeping socialism" by one foreign banker. The NEP has deterred investment by foreigners and non-Bumiputras Malaysians and the Government is at pains to point out that the 30:40:30 split is a global

target which need not apply in every case. It is thought that the National Front's impressive victory in the recent general election, in which it won 131 out of 154 parliamentary seats, will give it the confidence to carry out the NEP with more flexibility than before. However it is likely that the policy will be fairly strictly interpreted with regard to companies exploiting Malaysia's natural resources for export. Already there have been significant changes in this sector. Through purchases on the London Stock Exchange the Government acquired a majority holding in London Tin. A new company, Malaysian Mining Corporation, has been formed, with 71.35 per cent of the equity owned by Permas, a public corporation, and the rest by Charter Consolidated. Of the three main plantation companies Sime Darby may complete registration as a Malaysian company next year. Although final targets for share ownership have not yet been met, effective control of the board is in Malaysian hands, through a Permas holding. The other two large plantation interests, controlled by Harrisons and Crosfield and the Guthrie Corporation, have much further to go in meeting NEP requirements. Harrisons and Crosfield recently increased its share in its largest holding, Harrisons Malaysian Estates, to 59.17 per cent. Malaysia's other pioneering venture as a developing nation is its attempt to set up local commodity exchanges at the end of the third Malaysian plan in 1980, a limited scale for some years but its development is hampered by the fact that Singapore can offer better foreign exchange rates, port facilities and telecommunications than Kuala Lumpur. With the recent arrival in Malaysia of brokers in palm

oil and the growth in local refining capacity the creation of a palm oil exchange could be imminent. A ministry spokesman gave early next year as a possible launching date. However, there are fears that government interference in its working could prejudice success. A report has been submitted to the Government on a futures market for tin. Mr Abdul Rahim Aki, chief executive of the Malaysian Mining Corporation, supports its establishment but says it would work only if the London Metal Exchange saw it as a complementary rather than a rival body. According to the third Malaysian plan the main change in the economy between now and 1990 will be the emergence of manufacturing as the largest contributor to gross domestic product. Its share will grow from 14.4 per cent in 1975 to 26.2 per cent in 1990, while that for agriculture will fall from 29.8 per cent to 19.7 per cent. Much of the new plant will be used for processing Malaysia's commodities, with timber and rubber offering the best opportunities. For instance, Sabah exports nearly all its hardwood in log form. The Government has high hopes for industrial development based on the recent oil and gas discoveries. It has signed an agreement with Shell and Mitsubishi to liquefy natural gas at Bintulu in Sarawak. Gas will be used to fuel a urea fertilizer plant, one of the five ASEAN industrial projects. There is also talk of an oil refinery and a petrochemical plant. Reynolds International Corporation has announced that it will build an aluminium processing plant in Bintulu and is considering constructing an aluminium smelter in Sabah. Looking farther ahead, an electrolytic tin plating plant for Malaysia is one of a second string of ASEAN industrial projects.

Main commodities	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Rubber:					
Production ('000 tonnes)	1,542	1,549	1,477	1,644	1,610
Export receipts (\$m)	1,062	1,224	858	1,313	1,432
Saw Logs & Timber:					
Production ('000 tonnes)	28,061	25,426	22,935	31,565	32,300
Export receipts (\$m)	662	653	471	1,000	1,017
Palm & kernel oil:					
Production ('000 tonnes)	978	1,255	1,514	1,670	1,815
Export receipts (\$m)	198	460	558	517	815
Tin:					
Production ('000 tonnes)	72.3	68.1	64.4	63.4	58.7
Export receipts (\$m)	380	642	511	646	722
Petroleum:					
Production (million barrels)	33.1	29.5	35.8	60.5	67
Export receipts (\$m)	114	287	361	740	855

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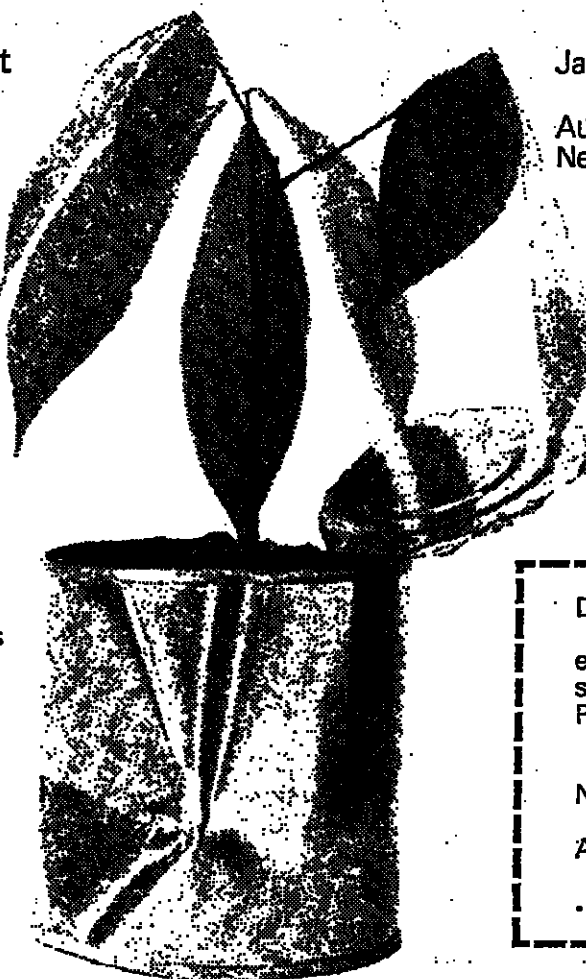
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General election

Pledge to fight terror and corruption unites the vote

by K. Das

Despite a widespread belief that there was a polarization of races in the wake of the general election in July, an air of calm descended upon Malaysia within a month and all suspicion and worry seemed to evaporate.

The Chinese population, which had partly turned its back on the Government in favour of the left-wing Democratic Action Party, seemed satisfied with registering its protest and frustration and the Malay voter, who stood firmly behind the Government, also seemed ready, having returned its favourite to power, to be prepared to forget the heat of the election and get on with the business of living.

Not that there was much heat in the campaign which gave the National Front Government of Datuk Hussein

Omn 131 seats in a 154-member Parliament. The election was conducted for the first time without public rallies. The ban on rallies issued since independence in 1957—changing from the most-party Alliance to the 10-party National Front only four years ago—went through some difficult experiences in the past three years.

The key component party, the United Malays National Organisation, has been so torn by internal dissension that for more than a year no one was sure if the Government would survive. Datuk Hussein, who took office on the death of Tun Abdul Razak in 1976, contended most doomsayers by steadfastly holding on to his principles and riding party and government of difficult or corrupt ministers, however powerful they were.

Of the votes while the Democratic Action Party with 16 seats managed more than 21 per cent of the total votes. The party which had governed since independence in 1957—changing from the most-party Alliance to the 10-party National Front only four years ago—went through some difficult experiences in the past three years.

The word was that the Malays would rebel against the party which had governed since independence in 1957—changing from the most-party Alliance to the 10-party National Front only four years ago—went through some difficult experiences in the past three years.

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1978 the figure was SM322.4m.

The fears of a damaged commodities market in the coming year are not any longer serious. The climate of stability that the over-riding government victory has brought about is expected to stabilize production in all areas. Increased expenditure, mainly with revenue from the petroleum industry, is being carefully used to boost the manufacturing sector.

The author is correspondent, Far Eastern Economic Review, Kuala Lumpur.

New Economic Policy

A balancing act which must keep foreign investors happy

by M. G. G. Pillai

After the racial riots in May, 1969, the Malaysian Government embarked on a policy to ensure that the politically dominant Malay community had at least 30 per cent of the corporate sector by 1990. With less than half the target reached, only 12 years remain, and the Government is involved in a balancing act to maintain its aim without offending foreign investors.

Part of the problem lay in the Bumiputras (which includes the Malays) not being involved in business on a large scale before independence, and government legislation has damped the flow of foreign investment.

The two main laws that could affect their operations are the Industrial Coordination Act, which provides

for licensing of manufacturing operations, and the Petroleum Development (Amendment) Act, which would have allowed the national oil corporation, Petronas, to be involved in all aspects of petroleum production and distribution.

The PDAA has since been amended, to bring back the oil exploration companies which declined to work on their concessions while the law was on the books; but the effect of the two laws has been a slowing of foreign investment, even though the Government has given assurances that it would not be misused.

These laws do not affect any of Malaysia's leading commodities other than petroleum, and Malaysia feels it has the skills to work its own commodities. The massive investment needed to work the oil concession areas is beyond Malaysia's reach, and a

production-sharing agreement is in force between Petronas and the main concessionaires in which the exploration companies are merely contractors.

The other important foreign investment in commodities is the joint venture formed among Petronas (with 63 per cent of the equity) and Shell and Mitsubishi (with 17.5 per cent each) in the \$12,000m liquefied natural gas project in Sarawak, East Malaysia.

There is little scope for foreign investment in the other commodities except as minority partners in joint ventures. The Malaysian capital, Foreign Investment in rubber and palm oil is negligible, since most of the newly opened areas for these two commodities come within the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), a statutory body which has also ensured that more than half the rubber produced in Malaysia comes from smallholders. Indications are that the same proportion will be true of palm oil in the near future.

These are examples of the strict enforcement of the Bumiputra policy has seen several long-standing foreign mining companies, and the general rule for foreign investors is that

they can retain 30 per cent of the equity, with the remainder being held by Malaysians, of which at least 30 per cent must be Malay capital.

The Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn, said last year that these regulations are flexible and can be altered in special circumstances. But officials and businessmen point out that there are few areas where it is necessary to relax the rules, particularly as local skills and knowledge become more advanced.

Despite the restrictions, foreign investment in Malaysia's main primary commodities remains formidable. This is partly because of the sizeable investments made by British companies in Malaysia during Britain's suzerainty over the country, and partly because many of these companies are now owned by the Bumiputras.

The Selangor state Government has also gone into joint venture with Charter Consolidated to work a newly found tin area in Kuala Lumpur.

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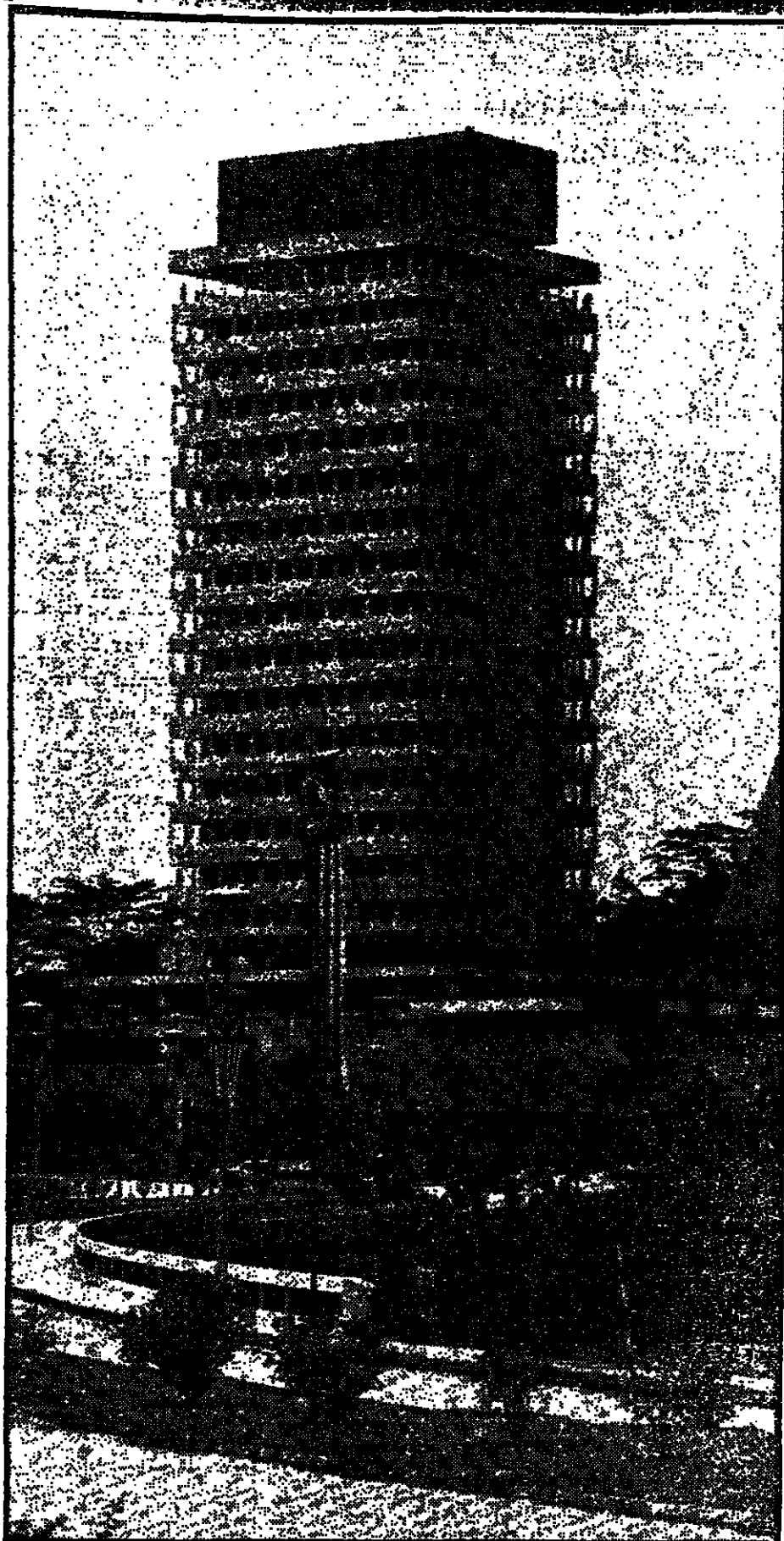
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The Malaysian Parliament House set in the Lake Gardens of Kuala Lumpur. The National Front Government of Datuk Hussein Onn has 131 seats in a Parliament of 154 members.



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Rubber

Unfortunate results of inheritance law

Rubber, which has been Malaysia's main export earner for nearly three quarters of a century, might find itself pushed into second place by petroleum and decline further when palm oil becomes the second most important export earner.

Those in the industry might feel put off by this development but to Malaysia's planners it is proof that the country's programme of diversifying its export commodities is bearing fruit. No wonder in this policy more evident than in the rubber industry, where the emphasis of government attention has been to create a large core of self-sufficient smallholders.

The Government's success in this direction is seen in the fact that more than half of the country's total production comes from smallholders. Last year the smallholders' share of total acreage gained 40,000 acres to reach 3,320,000 acres while those in the estates declined by 18,000 acres to 1,460,000 acres. Total rubber production was 1,600,000 tonnes, of which the smallholders accounted for 59 per cent, compared with 40 per cent in the late 1950s. One reason for the decline of rubber from estates was the switch from rubber to palm oil.

Indeed, Tun Tan, Siav Sin, the former Malaysian finance minister, said recently that the trend would continue unless the Government gave tax incentives and the estates themselves modernized and introduced labour-saving devices to cut costs of production.

But the Government, in its own way, has decided on massive efforts to alleviate the lot of the smallholders who, despite the influence they have on Malaysia's rubber industry, remain among the country's poorest workers.

Most of the smallholders are organized under the Federal Land Development Authority, a statutory body which provides the framework for the service support to smallholders working on their individual plots within a large estate.

reasonably well-off after the first generation. Most of the smallholders are Malays, particularly those in FELDA schemes, many of whom come into the scheme from the Army, with five or six children. When one smallholder dies, his 10-acre plot has to be divided among his heirs, and each plot thereafter becomes uneconomical. The problem therefore remains unresolved.

A senior official of the Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (RISDA) said: "It is difficult to get over the problem of inheritance", and commented that attempts to get them to join their plots into larger plots might not work.

The attachment to land is another factor in a country where there are instances of division of land that reaches ridiculous proportions—a recent not unusual division gave each of the heirs one 4,500th of an acre which meant, as an official in Malaysia's Kedah state remarked, that "when you put your big toe on it, your little toe is on someone else's land". But these are difficulties that require a political decision, which is not for the moment.

For present planning, however, the Government formed RISDA, which took over the functions of three government agencies, looking after the interests of smallholders. Industrial experts believe that the swift action by the Government to safeguard the interests of the smallholders helped the industry with-stand pressures from synthetic rubber.

Now, smallholders have an impressive array of talent they can turn to for help. RISDA was more than instrumental in getting them to replant, thus getting three or four times the yield of their old trees. The intense concentration on the needs of the smallholders has brought results. Records kept by the Government indicate that smallholders with between eight and ten acres in FELDA schemes earn anything between SM300 and SM1,500 a month, depending on the price of rubber.

At present, they earn more than the minimum—and for the Government all this is heartening news. But with less production from the estates, Malaysia expects a shortage of about a million tonnes by 1985 and prices should remain high.

A note of caution is beginning to be heard these days: these high prices are not going to help if the small plots get even smaller by the fragmentation which follows the death of the head of the household.

While attention is focused on the smallholder, the labourer in the estates is often ignored. The bulk of the workers still are Indians, often descendants of indentured labour brought into the country to work the new estates of the last century. At least 58,000 of them are not citizens, although many of them are born in Malaysia, and little effort is made to alleviate their lot. Part of their difficulty stems from education.

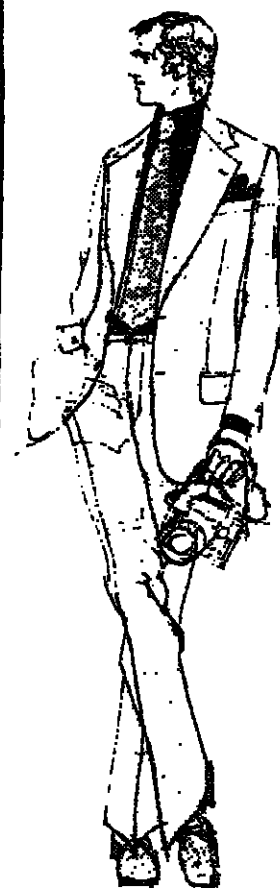
Their insistence on, Tamil as their medium of instruction and the terrible condition of estate schools for which it is not unusual for one teacher to handle as many as 200 pupils divided into four or five grades ensure that they are good for little else except as labourers in the estates.

Efforts are under way to get them out of their morass, but the successes have been few and far between—a significant example of a man who had got out of that constraining system now sits as Deputy Minister of Labour and Manpower and represents a constituency where not so long ago his parents used to work as labourers in an estate owned by a multinational British firm.

They do not have a powerful lobby to work on their behalf, and a suggestion recently by a trade union leader that the Indians in the estates should change Tamil for Malay if they wanted to improve their chances led to his being sued for libel and slander. But these workers remain the backbone of the industry: efforts to replace them with citizens did not succeed and many of them continue to work by permission. Their problems begin afresh when they retire, when they are more often than not cast away to increase the number of beggars in the urban areas.

M. G. G. P.

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Tin

Leading producer intends to look after its own

Malaysia, the world's largest tin producer, remains optimistic that it will remain so even though production is falling. Last year's output of 58,700 tonnes was its lowest figure in 16 years, and while this was expected, much of the mechanics of tin production is centred on finding new fields to replace the worked-out deposits. For long, tin mining has been concentrated in the Kinta valley in Perak and in northern Selangor but, as these are being worked out, there is increased pressure for more mining land.

The Malaysian Government hopes to mine the new areas with less reliance on foreign capital and skills. Many mining companies, foreign and local, have found themselves unable to renew their mining leases (usually for 60 years) and less they reorganized their corporate structure to bring in Bumiputra participation—an acknowledged goal of Malaysia's new economic policy.

The Government's contention is that there is enough local skill to mine the new finds and it does not see any reason why they should be farmed out to foreign exploitation. The Government has therefore consistently refused to allow new mining land to both foreign and non-Bumiputra miners. The fresh finds are substantial enough to help Malaysia to remain the world's largest tin producer.

About the largest of the new finds is in the Kuala Langat area of Selangor state, which would be exploited by a state government corporation in joint venture with Brinza's Charter Consolidated. Several other areas have been marked out for mining, but many of them are on Malay reservation land. This means that the land cannot be alienated to non-Malays and a condition of the lease to exploit the land would be to allow only Bumiputra companies to exploit them.

But the key issue on fresh mining deposits is whether a common policy on land could be worked out for all the 13 Malaysian states. Industry leaders say that this has become even more relevant with the depletion of reserves, and a common approach could help to cut through the bureaucratic delays that now hamper approval of fresh mining land or renewing of leases.

A step in this direction has been taken by the approval of the national land code setting up a national mining code. The reason why land is so complicated an issue is that the 13 states have virtual veto on how the land could be used, and the central Government, no matter how noble its intentions, finds itself in difficulties when trying to get the states to accept the promises it has made to investors.

But the main reason why states appear unwilling to open up new land for mining or other economic use is their belief, not without justification, that they have not benefited from such alienation. To overcome this, some of the former subsidiary companies, such as Selangor Perangsang Sekong group, are to exploit the newly found tin fields, so that they would get more than just the royalties they got under existing conditions.

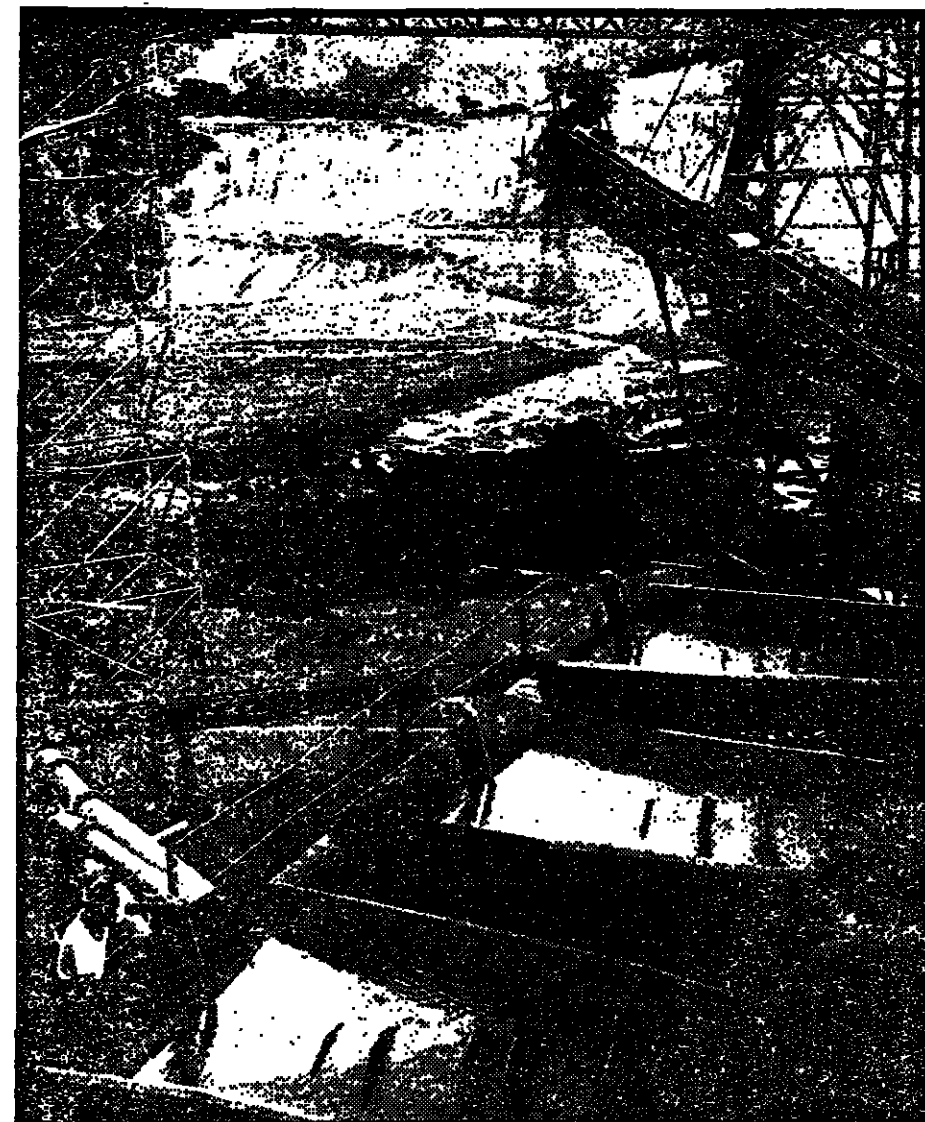
It would appear that the venture with Brinza's Charter Consolidated, action of the Selangor Government will be adopted by all the states. It has been announced that the states would take over expired mining leases and joint ventures would only be on the basis of 70 per cent participation by the state government. There would be no more mining land alienated for private mining in the state.

The federal Government is powerless to intervene, although the uncertainty over mining lease renewals has led to companies declining to invest in the and years of their lease. There is no guarantee that they could continue after expiry. The Government contends that the land, once the lease expires, reverts to the state while the companies insist that there must be a provision for renewal. Political difficulties over massive refusals could erupt in Perak, by far the richest of the tin mining revenue earners, and a committee is now looking into the issue.

But government officials insist that the new deposits found would more than make up for the mined-out areas and Malaysia could maintain its hold as the world's largest producer for some time to come. One official said: "We have to take a tough line at the depletion of our extractive industries, and we intend to do just that." At the same time, the policy towards helping the Bumiputras in all aspects of commerce and industry would be helped by giving them priority over exploring these areas.

"It is a kind of economic nationalism", one expatriate tin miner said. But the mining industry has not been faced with the demands that the oil companies have regarding control of the commodity.

M. G. G. P.



Washing the ore at a mine at Dungun.

Palm oil

Refining sector grows with the crop

Idir Jasir

synthetic rubber

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palm oil, exports

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a oil palm was in-

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over the past 15

made Malaysia

ner producer of

ty palm oil.

been forecast that

palm oil will surpass rubber

in terms of production and

exports in eight years. Sta-

istics will show that this is

not impossible. There were

at the end of last year

1,855,294 acres of land

under oil palm, 1,269,441

acres under production and

585,853 under young trees.

This year the mature

acreage increased to

1,470,000 and the immature

declined to 471,569. By 1981,

oil palm acreage, both

mature and immature, is

estimated to increase to

2,025,991. Production will

then be about 2,910,000

tonnes based on a per acre

output of 3,584lb. Last

year's production amounted

to 1,460,000 tonnes or 10

times higher than the out-

put in 1965.

It is, however, unfor-

tunate that the expansion of

the palm oil industry is tak-

ing place at the expense of

an even more vital industry,

natural rubber. Although

palm oil started off as a

secondary plantation crop in

the planters' effort to divers-

ify and stabilize their

revenue because of uncer-

tain rubber prices, it is

clear today that it is edging

rubber out of its domain.

The entry of smallholders

into the industry will have

the effect of strengthening

it in the sense that the Gov-

ernment will inevitably give

it a higher priority.

One other factor that

promises to make palm oil

an important economic sec-

tor in future is the process-

ability of crude palm oil.

An increasing volume of

Malaysian palm oil is

exported in the semipro-

cessed or manufactured

state. This pleases the Gov-

ernment as it helps to

create new investments, job

opportunities and the bene-

fit of added value.

From almost nothing,

there are about 208 palm oil

refiners and palm oil pro-

ducer manufacturers. They

boast of a combined invest-

ment of some \$M200m. In a

relatively brief period of

less than 10 years, they

have increased domestic

processing of crude palm oil

from 11,625 tonnes or 2.8 per

cent of total production in

1970 to 887,853 tonnes or

60.5 per cent of production

last year.

While traditional markets

like the EEC and the

United States continue to

prefer crude palm oil

because they have their own

processing facilities, new

customers in the developing

countries like the oil-rich

Middle East states have to

settle for finished products.

The industry sees a great

advantage in exporting

finished products because

they provide Malaysian

palm oil with its own iden-

tity.

But despite its rapid

growth, the refining and

manufacturing sector is not

without its troubles. It is

paying the price of its fast

expansion. Plantations have

committed themselves to

supplying long-established

foreign customers and are

in a less flexible position to

increase local sales over-

night. Since most refiners

are without their own plan-

tations the recent decline in

production caused by

drought has affected them

severely.

At the height of the

shortage, a number of them

were forced to reduce

production and the more

able ones had to be content

to pay more for the crude.

Crude palm oil producers

claimed that they were not

discriminating against local

buyers, saying that the

shortage was genuine. Some

of them were forced to buy

back their contracts because

of their inability to deliver.

An arrangement is being

made between the crude

palm oil producers and

refiners, with the authori-

ties playing the role of

peacemaker. The arrange-

ment will aim at creating a

more equitable local con-

tract.

Despite the knowledge

that it is the most polluting

industry—with combined

discharge totalling about

95,000 tonnes a day—no

control was imposed until

the end of last year.

The new regulations

require the country's 110

palm oil mills to reduce

their pollution load from

20,000 parts a million

(ppm) bod (biochemical

oxygen demand) to 5,000 by

the middle of this year,

2,000 ppm by the same time

next year and 500 ppm by

mid-1980.

The cost of installing anti-

pollution equipment on

these mills could be be-

tween \$M200,000 to \$M3m

depending on the type of

systems used. There has

been little criticism from

the industry, indicating that

the mills are in the position

to abide by the rules.

On the marketing side,

orders had been issued by

the Government to speed

the establishment of a palm

oil exchange in Kuala Lum-

pur. The newly established

Palm Oil Registration and

Licensing Board (Porla) has

commenced operation and a

research institute exclusi-

vely for palm oil is being

planned.

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The author is on the staff of the Business Times, Kuala Lumpur.

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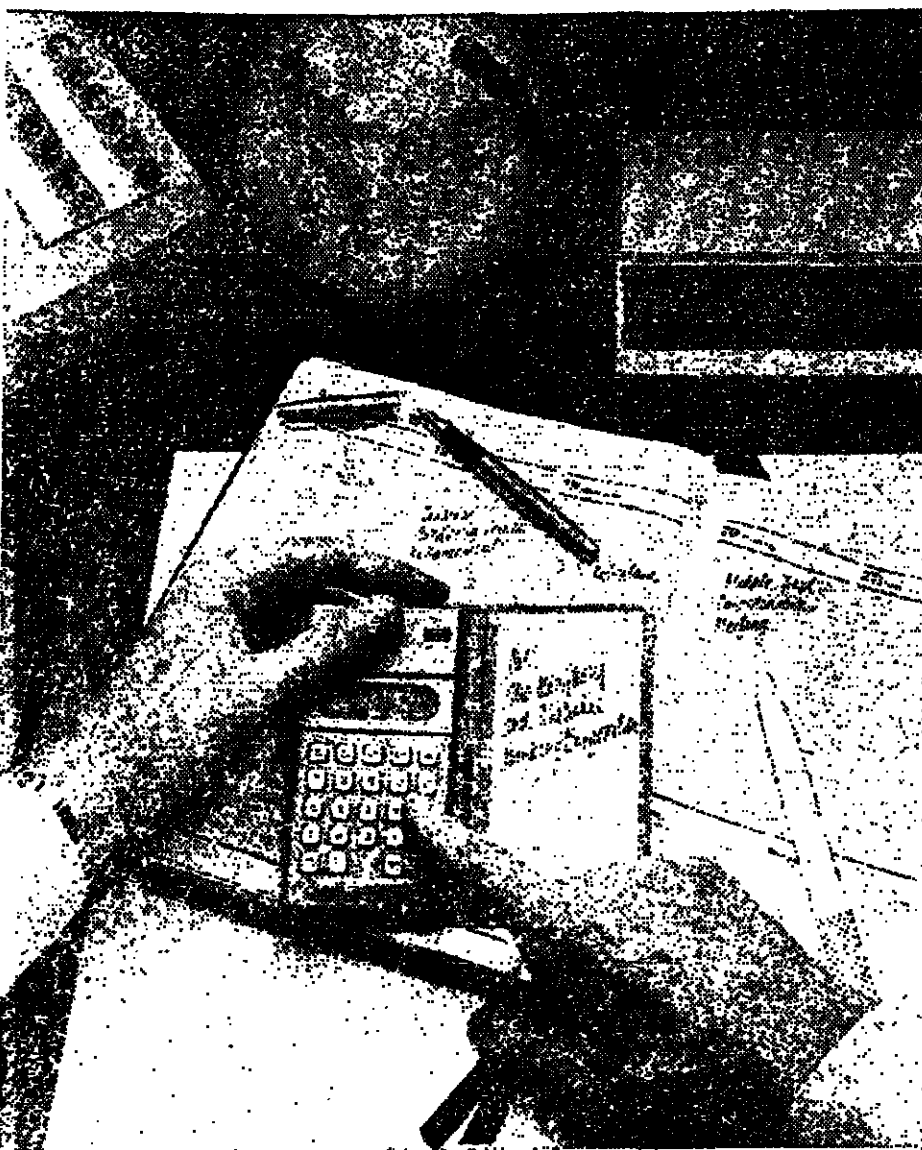
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Timber

Forestry law proposed to stop excessive logging

by K. Das

While it is difficult for the casual observer to believe that Malaysia can be denuded of timber, official estimates are that within a decade or so, given the present rate of extraction of timber running at 900,000 acres a year, the country might well become a net importer of logs.

The director general of the Malaysian Timber Industries, Mr Abdul Razak Majid, believes that unless the harvesting is reduced to a third of the current rate there is no hope of ensuring regeneration to maintain permanent forests. But the politics of timber in Malaysia are complex and a battle between conservationists and logging interests now raging still seems to be going in favour of destruction. Even the hysterical voice of the ecology lobby, which says dozens of rivers have been almost killed by silt brought about by indiscriminate logging in high-gradient water courses of mountainous country, has had no effect.

The Federal Government tried to step in last year but the states which control land matters and depend almost exclusively upon land revenues for any development independent of the Federal Government, also failed to cooperate fully. The National Forestry Council's guidelines for conservation thus remained a dead letter. But now it appears there may be changes, at least in the peninsular states.

After the general election on July 8, a number of chief ministers in the states have been replaced, and these men are seen as the Prime Minister's men. More important, they are seen to be less concerned with narrow state interests and capable of putting a brake on the rising rate of timber extraction.

Just one month after the election Mr Paul Leong, Minister of Primary Industries, disclosed that a forestry code had been drawn up. While he did not disclose the details of the code, he said it would be discussed with the National Land Council before it was made law. According to informed sources, the code will prevent large-scale clear felling—indiscriminate cut-

ting of forest, including saplings and non-commercial trees, for the sake of easy harvesting—as well as encourage the timber milling industry to import some timber.

The Malaysian milling industry, which saw its own consumption of timber increase from 68 per cent of the total peninsular production in 1975 to 72 per cent in 1976 and 81 per cent in 1977, is naturally concerned that a cutback in logging can badly damage its future.

This concern further exacerbated the question of conservation and planned exploitation of resources as illegal logging became serious. The timber board and the forestry council, aware of the need to maintain the mills as well as the forests, have been trying to find new sources of logs—from Indonesia and Sabah—but the industry finds the alternative sources far less

attractive for a variety of reasons.

Both Indonesian and Sabah logs now being sold to Japan are all but controlled by the Japan Lumber Industries Association, a consortium of 15 Japanese companies which buy enough logs to feed 25,000 sawmills, 5,000 woodchip mills and 100 plywood and veneer mills. The consortium controls prices and, once export tax is added, the price of the logs is far higher than the peninsular miller is prepared to pay. Freight, too, adds to the cost—a factor that does not worry the Japanese who maintain their own fleets for moving the lumber.

Arguments by the Timber Industries Board that Sabah at least should waive rates and royalty for peninsular importers have so far had little effect. The Sabah Government, which has always been dependent on timber,

signed away its petroleum rights in 1976 to the Federal Government in exchange for a 5 per cent royalty guarantee like the rest of the 13 Malaysia states. The state therefore guards its income from timber rather jealously.

There are some moves to upgrade its processing capability, but the short-term attraction is to increase prices and, with the help of Indonesia, force Japanese consumers to pay the higher prices. If in the process peninsular consumers are priced out of the market, there appears to be no real worry in Sabah.

Kuala Lumpur's argument that Sabah's growing wood-milling industries might benefit by cooperating and coordinating with established peninsular millers has also fallen on deaf ears. The suspicion is that peninsular industries simply seek a cheap source of

wood. Sabah's Chief Minister appears more keen on protection of the state's earning capacity than in any long-term benefit for the country as a whole. He appealed in Parliament early this year for subsidies for replanting forests and preferential taxation to encourage reforestation.

Thus while it is clear that the timber industry in Malaysia can be efficiently managed to maintain a steady supply of wood for home consumption and export, the country is bringing about control without upsetting the political forces at play. The new forestry code, for example, can be more easily imposed on the peninsular states than on Sabah (or Sarawak) a thousand miles away.

Sabah, under the former chief minister, Tun Mustapha, refused to sign away its rights over oil and gas and there were even seces-

sionary moves based on the belief that the state could go it alone. Datuk Harris Salleh, who took office as Chief Minister two years ago with a bankrupt treasury, finished his first year with a \$M1,000m in the black and saved the Federal Government a great deal of trouble.

His plans to team up with Indonesia to keep the Japanese consortium of timber merchants under control is respected, even if it means pricing Sabah logs out of peninsular markets.

The feeling in Kuala Lumpur is that there will be some compromise because the alternative to Sabah and Indonesian logs is to cause permanent damage to the forestry industry in the peninsula and irreversible violence to the ecology.

The author is correspondent, Far Eastern Economic Review, Kuala Lumpur.

Petroleum

Prudent policy-makers authorize £500m natural gas plant

by Guy Sacerdoti

Despite the buoyancy of Malaysia's important plantation and mineral commodities over the past few years, the main reason for the country's positive balance of trade and more than \$M6,000m cushion of net reserves is the onslaught of the oil industry.

By 1977, crude production had jumped to 10 times its 1970 level, while by next year it should double the 1975 figures, reaching an annual production of nearly 70 million barrels. Exports of crude and partly refined petroleum products brought in \$M2,017.4m (\$US\$58.5m) last year, firmly establishing the industry as the second largest export earner after rubber.

Malaysia's export revenue from oil in the eastern states of Sarawak and Sabah and beginning this March, from Exxon-contracted fields off the eastern peninsular coast of Trengganu is now 13.5 per cent of total export revenue.

The influence of the industry will continue to grow in the next half-decade, as Petronas, the state oil company, diversifies into the long-awaited production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and builds its own refinery on the peninsula; and as plans materialize to open new contract areas for further expansion.

At the same time, however, the four-year-old national oil company will be forced to suffer the growing pains inherent in any high technology non-renewable resources development. As opposed to Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest oil producer, Malaysia need not rush to extract its oil for instant revenues.

The country's reserves are limited, and prudent energy policies dictate gradual development with an eye on resource conservation and efficient use. The lessons of the Indonesian petroleum giant Pertamina, which almost became bankrupt after uncontrollable expansion and non-guaranteed borrowing, led Malaysia's policy-makers to be more cautious in their planning and negotiating.

Though this attitude is to Malaysia's credit, it antagonized Petronas's foreign partners and saw the project commitments and contracts bogged down for years without much negotiating headway. But 1978 has changed much of that, with initial contracts for the \$US1,000m Binculu LNG plant signed and the last of the long-standing production-sharing contract negotiations settled.

The Binculu LNG project is by far Malaysia's largest industrial undertaking. Using gas reserves located in four big fields in the central Luconia region 125km to 275km off the Sarawak coast, the three-train plant facility will produce six million tons of LNG a year at maximum production. The first train is scheduled to come on-stream in late 1982 (with first shipments to the biggest customer, Japan, in early 1983).

Equivalent to 140,000 bpd, the LNG is expected to bring in an average of more than \$US600m a year in revenues over the 20-year contract period with Japan.

A joint-venture company was set up to run the project, 65 per cent controlled by Petronas, with 17.5 per cent evenly split between Shell and Mitsubishi Corporation. But the inauguration of the company on August 4 merely brought to a head

nearly four years of haggling over the project and exacerbated the conflict the oil industry faces when national resource sovereignty is pitted against the necessity of coordinated foreign technical knowledge.

With Shell operating the gas fields and much of the technical and managerial staff at the plant as partners, the company was adamant that its subsidiary, Shell Internationale Petroleum Maatschappij (SIPM), receive the technical consultancy contract for the construction of the plant.

The cost-conscious Malaysian negotiators, though aware of the technical harmony required for a massive project like Binculu, sought to keep their options open during the competitive bidding for the contract, on the one hand trying to keep fees low while on the other trying to keep Shell from dominating contract and terms. SIPM was finally awarded the contract on the same day as the LNG joint-venture was formed.

Though the project negotiations have finally ended, the long delay caused a more involved and far more costly problem. The Malaysian International Shipping Company, scheduled from the start to operate the five LNG carriers required to transport the LNG to Japanese customers, went ahead in 1974 and ordered the tankers from the French at a cost of \$M1,700m (\$US700m at 1974 rates).

The first ship is scheduled for delivery next year, four years before the first LNG shipment will be ready.

Though Pertamina has pledged its help in trying to find interim charterers, the eight LNG market makes use of the tankers unlikely at best. Because of this, charter rate negotiations had to be concluded before the joint-venture company agreement was signed to ensure the viability of the National Shipping Company's LNG tanker fleet. It is easy to understand the collective sigh of relief once the joint-venture company was at last formed.

Creating production-sharing oil contracts has been another Petronas problem. After the birth of Petronas and until 1976 the production-sharing battle raged between Shell, Exxon and Petronas over concessions the two foreign firms held for exploration and production.

It took the intervention of the Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn, to break the stalemate over the new contracts, which created a production split of about 83.5 per cent for the Government and 16.5 per cent for the companies.

Conoco, which held a concession adjacent to the Exxon fields of peninsular Malaysia, felt it could not agree to the terms as its fields were "marginal", meaning reserves were small and predicted cost of production so high that the company would remain uncertain whether the fields

would be commercial under the Petronas contract arrangement.

Finally, in August Conoco pulled out of Malaysia entirely, transferring its contract area to a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petronas, which will now go out and contract firms to develop the reserve pockets.

However, reports that Conoco received some type of compensation for work already done on the fields left a good atmosphere in the industry even after the pull-out. For Petronas, the resolution of the Conoco issue ended the last protracted negotiation remaining from the aftermath of Petronas's own creation, leaving the company free, finally, to look to the future without always having the nagging unfinished business of pre-Petronas days hovering in the background.

As if to mark the release, Exxon's Trengganu fields came on-stream in early March, initially at 20,000 bpd with prospects of 70,000 bpd by next year. Construction of the third production platform began in July in the Bekok area, with a satellite platform planned later this year for the Tapis field. Shell's Sarawak fields are pumping about 39,000 bpd, while Sabah, Shell and Exxon's contributions from East Malaysia are up to nearly 85,000 bpd.

But while production increased by more than 100 per cent between 1976 and 1977, with another 15 to 20 per cent increase projected

for this year, 200,000 bpd production will probably remain the limit for some time to come. Malaysia is worried about exploiting its reserves too fast, and has been talking with contractors—recently about keeping production more tightly regulated, not merely for conservation, but for market reasons as well.

Malaysia's six most important export commodities all comprise more than 75 per cent of total foreign revenues, and with world commodities prices often unpredictable, the Government's energy policies will look to oil as a reasonable buffer for foreign exchange should other commodity prices or production dip suddenly.

This go-slow attitude also gives the Malaysians more time to develop their own skill in the industry, creating training opportunities as new projects leave the drafting room.

Though projects like the Binculu LNG will still require immediate manpower needs of about 6,000 skilled workers, the slow but steady growth of the industry in Malaysia should keep managerial and technical development in harmony with the industry's growth, thus avoiding more of the pitfalls that befell Malaysia's huge southern neighbour, or those which plagued Petronas during its infancy.

The author is correspondent, Far Eastern Economic Review, Kuala Lumpur.

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MALAYSIA

Cocoa

Confident forecast of mounting sales in next decade

ngjit Gill

Professor E. E. man, a tropical agri- expert, undertook in government-financed to ascertain the feasi- of planting cocoa on uerical basis, he came unexpected conclusion alysia (then Malaya) produce as much as tonnes each year, 8 per cent of world tion. a few companies, in- Harrison & Cros- Cadbury and, later, mmonwealth Develop- orporation (CDC), de- to back Professor man's theory. ny-one years later, fessor's forecast is ealized, albeit slowly, a Malaysian Govern- spects the country to s one of the lead- ducers of cocoa by n of the century. ld cocoa prices stay stable (they have ed between £1,500 and a tonne in the past ths and are at present £1,780 a tonne) a can expect earnings e commodity to rank after rubber and il, which last year ed for almost £1,250m per cent of all com- ports. 1977 cocoa exports the country £26m, 90 per cent more than evious year, and an officials confi- forecast a 20 to 30 per e in sales each r the next seven to s. profitability of cocoa ent has been strik- demonstrated. Given ost threefold increas es during the 1970s, apital return on an-grown cocoa on e per year basis is mes that of either il or rubber, while investment is appre- over. expected wealth, how- ok its time coming, any other successful ops the potential of genic name cacao) ognized some 175

years after it was introduced to Malacca in 1778. The first serious evalua- tion of the crop's suitability to Malayan conditions was undertaken in 1934, at Ser- dang, 16 miles from Kuala Lumpur, but studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War. The first report, while favourable, did not envisage the growing of cocoa on a scale that would enable it to compete with rubber. It viewed cocoa as an ideal crop to be developed for small- holders. Professor Cheeseman disagreed, fortunately for all concerned, and confidently asserted the practicability of producing 100,000 tonnes a year, given careful research and exhaustive experiments. The cocoa plant is ever- green and grows to a height of between 10ft and 15ft. Flowers and pods, bearing the valuable beans are borne on the trunk and main branches, and fruiting takes place twice a year. The pods ripen all year round and are usually picked five months after the cocoa and the crop further development is ex- pected to play a big part in FELDA's future plans. Some 100,000 acres are under cocoa throughout Malaysia. Within the next seven years 300,000 acres are expected to be under cocoa. To achieve this tar- get a 6,000-acre research centre in Pahang (named after the late prime minis- ter, Tun Abdul Razak) has been set up, as have smaller research plants in Selangor, Perak, and in Sabah. The Malaysian Govern- ment is also seeking a £13m

loan from the World Bank to intercrop 2,000 acres of coconut smallholdings in West Malaysia. Results show that, as an intercrop, cocoa yields vary between 400lb and 1,000lb; while, culti- vated as a sole crop as in Sabah, yields are three times as high. With prices about £1,700 (down from a little over £2,000 18 months ago) the Malaysian Government is content to allow the in- dustry to grow progressi- vely, and in keeping with world demand, rather than embark on a crash produc- tion programme that could disrupt the key estates sec- tor of the economy. Demand worldwide has remained at about 1,500,000 tonnes, with EEC countries, the United States and Canada the most important consumers. More recently the Soviet Union and other Eastern block countries have increased their pur- chases, and the Malaysians see this as yet another pro- mising sign. Last month Cadbury Schweppes announced that it would buy 800 tonnes of Malaysian-produced cocoa this year, its first direct purchase. It is felt generally that increasing affluence will be accom- panied by a greater demand for cocoa, still considered a luxury item at present prices. Malaysia's motivation for putting great effort into cocoa production lies with the high yields the estates report. Another important factor is the minimum acreage yield to make cul- tivation profitable. The cost of production, at present, for a sole crop is SM700 (£160) an acre, much less than in West Africa. As an intercrop, production costs work out at SM1,100 (£220) an acre. At present prices, a yield of 350lb an acre ensures profitability, whereas average yields are five or more times as much. Thus a cocoa farmer can confidently assume a profit of at least £400 an acre of cocoa cultivated. A further attraction is that at present no export duty is levied on cocoa exports.

to 13,369 tonnes last year. At the Lal estates, near Tawau, experiments with a strain known as the Upper Amazon hybrid yielded 5,000lb of cocoa beans an acre, and an average yield of 3,000lb an acre is expected during com- mercial cultivation. By com- parison yields from West African states, the world's leading producers, rarely exceed 750 lb. The Malaysian Govern- ment has embarked upon a plan to increase cocoa out- put systematically. As a first step, extensive cultivation of the plant as a sole crop, or intercropping with coconut— an ideal companion—is being encouraged. The Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), which oversees organized land development schemes and ensures Bumiputera (indigenous Malay) participation in agricultural projects, has offered cheap land and soft loans for far- mers developing cocoa. By the end of next year more than 11,000 acres will be under cocoa and the crop further development is ex- pected to play a big part in FELDA's future plans. Some 100,000 acres are under cocoa throughout Malaysia. Within the next seven years 300,000 acres are expected to be under cocoa. To achieve this tar- get a 6,000-acre research centre in Pahang (named after the late prime minis- ter, Tun Abdul Razak) has been set up, as have smaller research plants in Selangor, Perak, and in Sabah. The Malaysian Govern- ment is also seeking a £13m



A worker splitting cocoa pods. Farmers can expect £400 profit an acre.

Research

No compromise in standards

ong Wai Lin

ia has developed in the years an envi- reputation as one of the world's leaders in com- research. of its achievements in making research in rubber which helps maintain its position as the world's top rubber pro- Institutionalization of search came in 1972 40 decades after the seed, Hevea Bras- was first planted in ysis's research and ment programme is the auspices of the an Rubber Research Development Board (DRB). The board has de- units—the Research Institute alysia (RRIM) and alysia Rubber Pro- Research Association, RA), which are the search arm of the ry, and the Malaysian -bureaux in 11 impor- rubber-consuming com- operating a technical ry service. MRDRB administers ordinates the finan- f research with funds elated from levy at ate of 2.2 Malaysian per kilogram of rub- This amounts to in a year. ia's research is conveniently d into production ch, which is the e of the RRIM, and ner research, which is d by the Producers' ch Association. RRIM director, Haji Arope, once said: e will be no compro- in research standards". e basic philosophy d Malaysia's research s in one of its lifeblood ities. ile RRIM's initial tive was to defend rubber against the achment of synthetics, hinking has been ou- d by changing circum- es. ditions show that ivate demand of rub- ill reach 16,000 million by the 1980s and will ce supply by one mil- ions. With natural rub- contributing 43 per cent total consumption, this pressure on the RRIM improve rubber yields igh research in genetic ding and new methods apping. e RRIM is working on e upgrading of the ing material to develop e-yielding clone which produce an annual



The entrance to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

volume in excess of 3,000 kilograms per hectare. Present yields are between 500 and 1,000 kilograms per hectare. It also experiments in new horticultural methods and has come up with a method of tapping rubber trees called puncture or micro-x tapping. Special im- plements make three holes in the tree bark and stimu- lating chemicals are used. The yield is noticeably above normal as well as using manpower more effi- ciently. Labour costs are reduced by half and a tapper can tap three or four times more than his usual rate of work. Stimulants have been found useful in enhancing latex flow by delaying the clotting effect in the spiral latex vessels which are found in the tree bark. RRIM also experiments with producing yields by reducing the immaturity period from the present five to seven years to three years or less, thereby also reducing the payback period to 12 to 17 years. Much of RRIM's produc- tion-oriented research is also directed at improving the lot of those with uneco- nomically sized smallhold- ings, low productivity and capital deficiency. The institute has found that the simple method of increasing the density of trees per plot speeds up plant growth. The opti- mum density, experiments show, is 1,000 trees per hectare, compared with the present 400-450. Puncture tapping comple-

ments this method and reaps many benefits for the smallholder. He can in- crease his yield without a simultaneous increase in labour force. One of RRIM's bigger achievements is the creating of the SUS2.4m technology centre, which was opened in 1975. The technology centre has among its holder ambitions the responsibility of foster- ing an Asian-oriented rubber product technology and to give greater thrust to the technical promotion of all new forms of natural rub- ber. This innovation-inclined centre, besides being the in- dustry's trouble shooter, also hopes to develop fully the revolutionary concept of "mixed or grafted" polymers. This essentially involves grafting various synthetic polymers to a natural rubber backbone and is intended to improve natural rubber performance com- pared with synthetic rubber. The centre has five units. The latex technology unit conducts studies on fully compounded natural rubber latices for making carpet backing and other foam products. The technological research unit probes into the physical properties of rubber to lengthen service performance and service life. The engineering unit aims to promote the com- parative superiority of nat- ural rubber over other polymers and to provide design information on new testing systems. The other research unit,

the Malaysian Rubber Pro- ducers' Research Associa- tion (MRPRA), has a three- fold purpose. It provides technical support for Malay- sian rubber exports to the West through its technical advisory service, it tries to develop new uses for natural rubber by adapting it to new manufacturing requirements and it ensures the transfer of technology to rubber-based industries in Malaysia. MRPRA's scientists have long been occupied in im- proving the qualities of nat- ural rubber, such as resist- ance to heat and ozone and they have developed methods which may pur- sue the manufacturer, hesitating between the nat- ural and the synthetic, to opt for the former. The association has also introduced a new "ellapic tyre", which has a higher rubber content than the popular radial ply. The impact of this find has yet to be determined, but given that the tyre industry consumes 70 per cent of the natural rubber produced, the introduction of the ellapic tyre promises much for the rubber indus- try. Malaysia's rubber research is advanced and well organized and it may well have been these factors which prompted both Viet- name and Bangladesh to request aid in training and research. The author is on the staff of Business Times, Kuala Lum- pur.



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Finance

Buoyant prices help reinvestment

by Lillian Too

Malaysia's position as an important producer and exporter of rubber, palm oil, timber and tin reflects the continuous investment and reinvestment of funds into these traditional sectors. To a great extent government support has played a key role, especially in the funding of research activities which, in retrospect, was the main element in saving rubber from the synthetic threat of the 1950s and 1960s and, far more significantly, has contributed largely to the success of palm oil.

Today, Malaysia provides 47 per cent of the world's rubber, 40 per cent of its palm oil, 37 per cent of its tin and 25 per cent of its tropical hardwoods. Collectively these four sectors still account for a big portion of economic activity. However, where previously these commodities were produced and exported in their unprocessed forms, in recent years there has been a discernible shift to greater value-added operations spilling over in the manufacturing sector.

Investment in these sectors today ranges from plan-

tation cultivation through processing to manufacture in several instances of end products.

The channelling of bank funds to the private sector is effected mainly through the commercial and merchant banks while public sector funds are channelled more indirectly through the funding of research institutes and through equity participation by way of the state development corporations and other statutory organizations set up to participate in direct private sector investments.

For example, Pemas, the state investment body, through its mining arm now controls the Malaysian Mining Corporation, the largest tin mining company in the world. State development corporations in Pahang and Trengganu are participating in timber extraction and palm oil plantation operations while FELDA, the Government's land development agency, has nearly a million acres of plantations which successfully cultivate rubber and palm oil as smallholder crops. To a large extent, these investments by government become self-financing through the reinvestment of internally generated funds, which in recent

years has been helped by buoyant prices in world markets.

Financing of private sector investments in commodities, particularly rubber and palm oil, are accounted for also by internally generated funds although the commercial banking system channelled some \$M230m into these two commodity sectors in 1977. Financing of rubber production in 1977 decreased by \$M18.5m, reflecting the improved financial position of the industry as a result of favourable export earnings.

New loans for the cultivation of oil palm increased, however, but only marginally by \$M9.4m in 1977 compared with \$M27m in 1976, also reflecting good prices last year. With these two sectors, new investments tend to be in processing activities which are categorized under manufacturing.

Palm Oil Mills and Refineries, for instance, has been set up in recent years as have various rubber product factories.

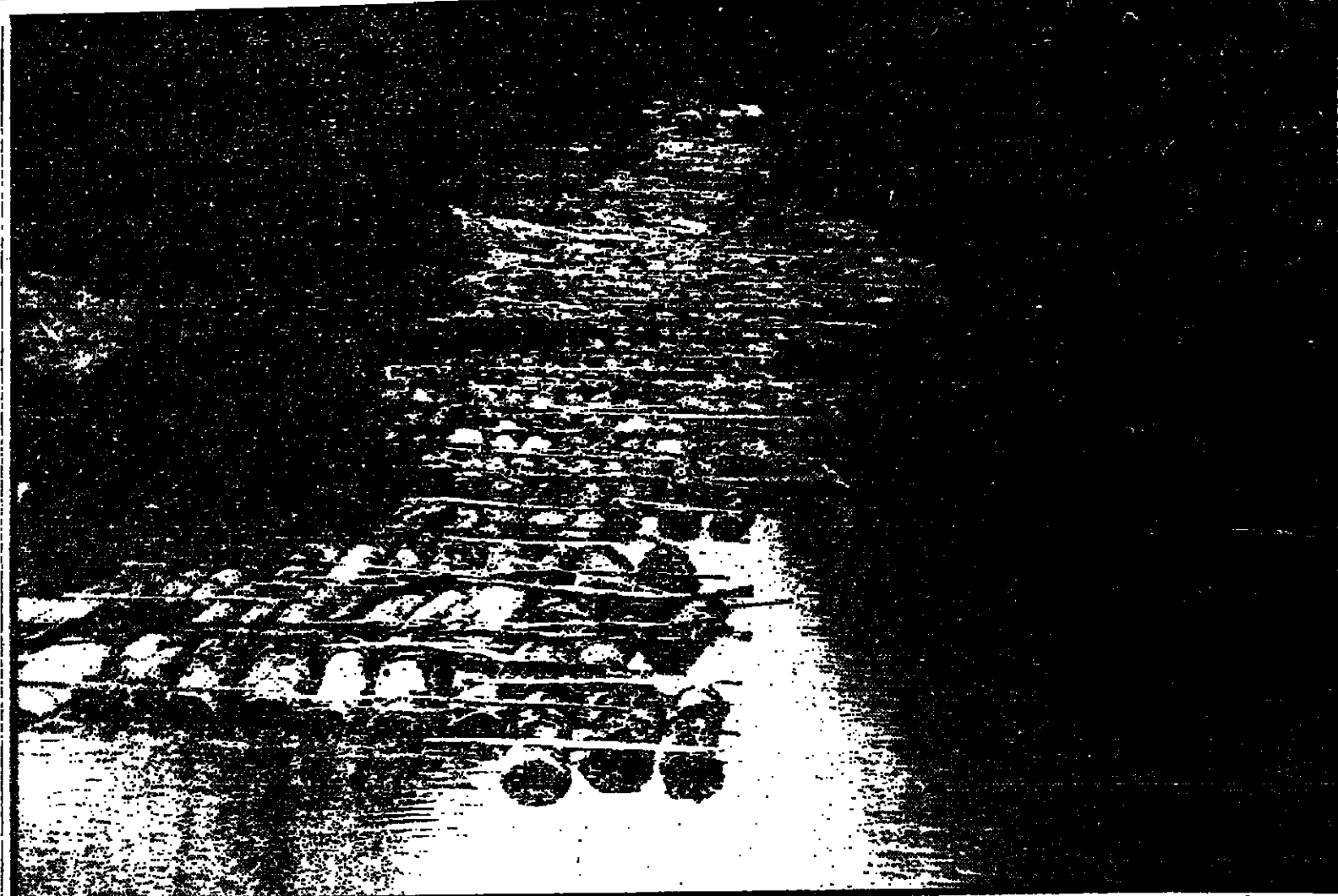
With timber, bank credit for forest logging activities increased by as much as 22 per cent in 1977, reflecting the revival of activity in

this area. The trend towards integrated timber complexes is also noticeable. From among investors in these activities are the state development corporations, offshoots of state governments which, concerned about the exploitation of valuable forest resources, are keen to establish their own timber extraction and processing businesses.

The commodities sector, however, accounted for only 6.6 per cent of total commercial bank lendings in 1977, with forestry taking the lion's share (\$M308.2m), and mining accounting for only \$M96.3m.

This is easily explained. For one thing these are high earning sectors with self-financing capabilities. For another, while bank credit was traditionally concentrated in these sectors, in recent years the Central Bank has laid down specific guidelines for the direction of lending to commercial banks, resulting in the banks systematically channelling more new credit to priority sectors. Commodities largely are excluded.

The author is group corporate planning manager to the Hongkong Group of Companies in Malaysia.



Unhurried log transport in Malaysia, the world's second largest exporter of tropical hardwoods.

Transport

Heavy freight costs prompt search for individual contract

by Wong Wai Lin

As most of Malaysia's various commodities, rubber, palm oil, timber and tin are exported to consumers in developed countries, the Government has been keenest in trying to secure favourable freight shipping rates, sometimes through bilateral contractual agreements.

In an age of rising fuel costs which increase shipping costs, the freight bill often runs into several millions of dollars a year. For the Government, it represents a heavy drain on foreign exchange and for the individual producer, an erosion of profits.

Shipping services sailing the traditional route from the Far East to Europe through the Suez Canal are largely the domain of the Far East Freight Conference (FEFC) and

tons of bulk latex were carried by FEFC ships. This works out roughly to an average between 72 and 76 per cent, fairly close to the target percentage.

The timber industry is shipped differently. It was initially under the FEFC general merchants' agreement but because of profit undercutting by non-conference lines which diverted business away from conference lines, the FEFC, in 1976, declared open rates so that members could compete without restrictions with non-conference operators.

As a move to encourage greater use of local facilities in timber shipping, the Malaysian Government banned all direct shipments of ungraded timber to Singapore, diverting them instead to the two-year-old

Pasir Gudang port in Johore Baru, the town which lies on the other end of the Malaysia-Singapore causeway.

This move is intended to stimulate business for the port which at present uses only half its potential. There are also plans to build a SML2m timber terminal to facilitate the checking, bundling and consolidation of timber exports and to handle an annual volume of 600,000 tons dry cargo and 1,500,000 tons of liquid cargo.

Timber exports go to the EEC, neighbouring Asian countries, and more recently, the Middle East, followed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Inland the transportation of commodities follows the traditional road-rail combination.

The Malayan Railway, which, under new administration, is slowly shedding its former inefficient image, plays an important role in commodity transport, carrying palm oil and latex in epoxy-coated tankers to prevent contamination.

In 1976 the railway carried 334,000 tons of timber, covering a total distance of 82 million ton miles. Last year, tonnage dropped to 329,000 ton miles, but there was a more than adequate compensatory factor which increased mileage of 138 million ton miles.

This year, the railway's ambition is to achieve a maximum of 900,000 ton miles and earn a hoped-for revenue of \$M9m.

Timber has a more colourful transport background as logs are brought out from the dense forests,

Felled logs are transported out using machines called skidders which slide the logs along the ground. It is not possible to build roads into the jungle because of its density.

The logs from the forests in the north-east are brought to the leading point, Gua Musang, which lies on the Malaysian-Thailand border. This town is close to the forwarding point which handles the largest volume of logs. The railway transports the logs on their trailers to saw-mill factories on the west coast.

Possibly transport of timber and other commodities benefit from the highway construction that is going on.

The author is on the staff of the Business Times, Kuala Lumpur.

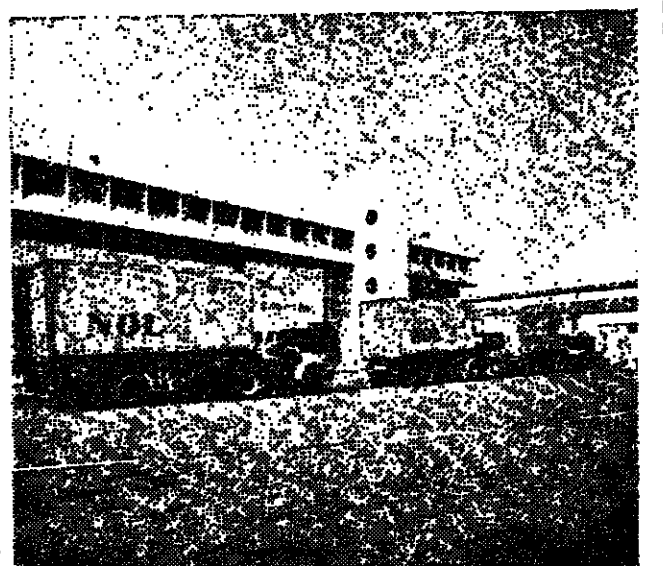


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The rubber industry's move for an individual scheme came a few years after the palm oil industry had pioneered such a pact.

In the early 1970s the palm oil industry succeeded in securing a private arrangement of bulk shipments to Europe on FEFC ships. This lasted one year and on its expiry, the industry decided to give support instead to the local line, in place of patronizing all FEFC holds.

The national shipping fleet, Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC), was then going into shipping in a big way and was strengthening its fleet with an order for three parcel tankers, specially built for carriage of palm oil.

Further, in 1975 MISC went into joint venture with Pan-Ocean Shipping, creating a company called Pan Ocean tankers, to ensure that the three parcel tankers would operate effectively on a worldwide basis.

These parcel tankers not only travel through the Suez Canal to destinations in Britain and Holland but also go to Australia and various American ports. The bill for these specialized carriers, with a capacity of between 14,000 and 17,000 tons, came to \$100m.

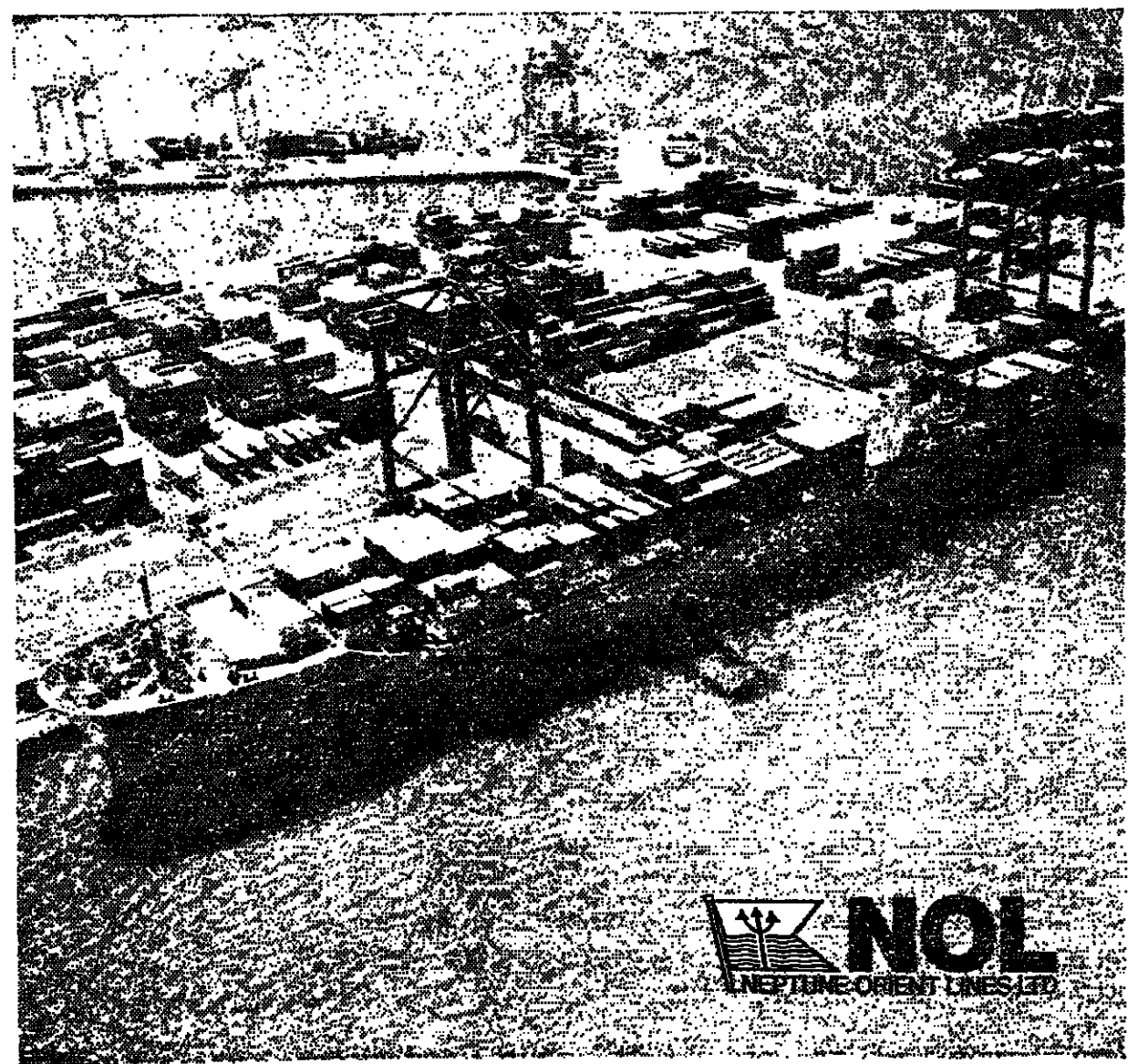
The rubber industry, forced to accept increasing freight costs which averaged 19 per cent a year in the four years before 1976, sought a pact similar to the palm oil industry's, with hopes of stabilizing the freight rates.

But its negotiations with the FEFC extended for two years, during which the Malaysian rubber industry mooted the idea of shipping in Russian vessels, possibly as a means of diversifying so as not to be totally reliant on the FEFC.

The negotiations finally ended last year and in August, 1977, the separate merchants' agreement came into force. It is a contract for three years and for the first 12 months of the year the rubber industry enjoyed a freight rate 2.5 per cent below the general tariff.

After one year the rate is subjected to any general changes in costs and the new rate, if changed, should hold good for another 12 months.

On the other hand, the shipping conference is guaranteed 75 per cent of Malaysian dry rubber and drum latex exports and up to this March statistics show that a total of 228,000 tons of dry rubber, 13,000 tons of drum latex and 57,000



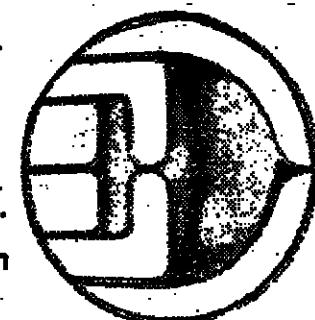
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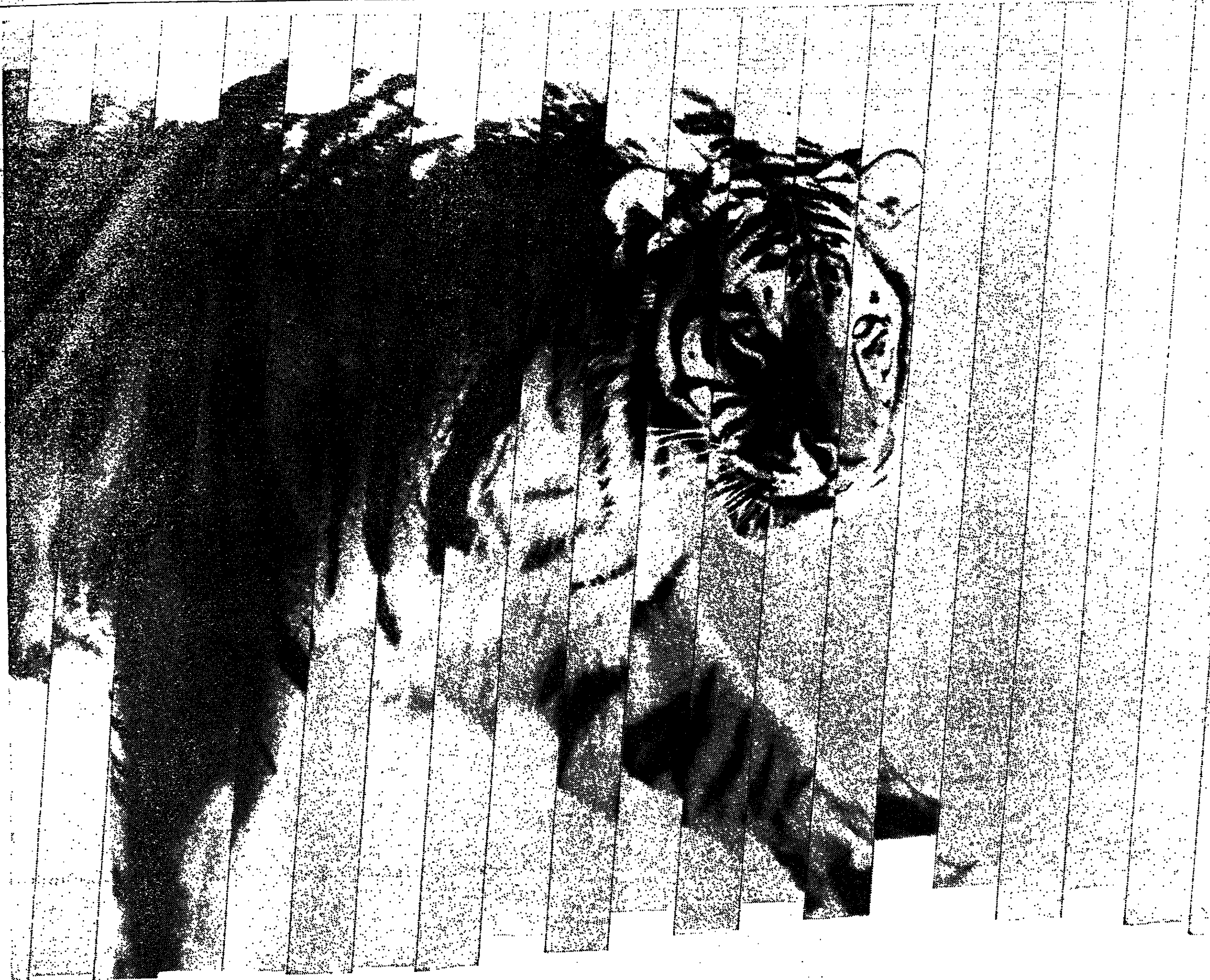
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POLICY ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT

The House of Lords Select Committee on the Foreign Boycotts Bill has decided that this draft legislation should not proceed. The Bill, sponsored by Lord Byers, was an attempt to counter the effects in the United Kingdom of the Arab boycott of Israel. That boycott, in its secondary and tertiary forms has had a surprisingly wide impact on British companies. Documents examined by *The Times* indicate that at one time or another as many as 1,000 British firms may have been blacklisted by the Arabs.

In its primary form the boycott does not affect Britain. The member countries of the Arab League as part of their continuing warfare against Israel have proscribed trade between their nationals and that country. The secondary boycott affects third countries: a company in any country can be blacklisted—and thus denied business with the Arabs—if it invests in or does business with Israel. (The Arabs claim that "ordinary business dealings" with Israel are not affected, only transactions which might support the Israeli economy, develop its industry, or increase its military efficiency; but in practice the rules are confusing and frequently contradictory.) The tertiary boycott penalises those who do business with blacklisted companies.

The task of the Select Committee was to decide whether the Foreign Boycotts Bill, which would make compliance with the boycott illegal, should go ahead. In one sense the fact that the committee has come down against the Bill is academic. It was clear before the select committee was set up that the government had no intention of setting aside time for such legislation and there is evidence to suggest that the government's cooperation in setting up the

committee was heavily conditional. Lord Byers tabled a motion in January asking that, if given a second reading, the Bill should be referred to a select committee, which meant in practice that the Bill was unlikely to get beyond the committee stage during the session and would have to be reintroduced next year. This meant that the government would not be pressured into legislating, while the Bill's sponsor's for their part would be given ample opportunity to ventilate the issue.

That said the committee is right to reject the Bill. The United Kingdom's visible exports to the Arab world in 1977 were worth £2,700m. There are also very large invisible earnings and Arab countries hold large sterling balances. These are sums which we cannot afford to put at risk through the introduction of legislation whose effects would be, at best, uncertain. There is no evidence to suggest either that it would lead to an improvement of our trade with Israel or that it would bring about any radical change in the attitude of the Arab countries towards the boycott; it might, indeed simply drive it further underground. There is also the risk that it would drive trade away from the shores towards more compliant countries. The one certain thing that can be said is that the Byers legislation would penalise British companies (for compliance with the boycott).

This is not to say that Britain should bow down before the boycott. Far from it. The Arab boycott in its secondary and tertiary forms is no less than international blackmail. But to counter such blackmail by means which would probably do this country more harm than good would be futile. The committee is right to suggest that there are other, less dramatic, measures

which might stand a far greater chance of success. Diplomatic pressure is one area which should be further explored. The German government has demonstrated that quiet but firm diplomatic pressure can and does work.

Further, the British government must do more than mouth pious platitudes. It has frequently said that it deplores the boycott, but has done little of a practical nature to back up these sentiments. The government should, as suggested by the committee, seriously consider whether public funds should be used in support of particular boycott-related transactions. It should most certainly stop forthwith the Foreign Office practice of authenticating the signatures on negative certificates of origin—documents stating that a company is not connected with any firm on the blacklist and that the goods concerned are of British origin.

But perhaps the most valuable recommendation in the committee's report is that the British Government should press to have the issue of the boycott placed on the agenda of the European Council with the aim of developing a common European policy towards the boycott. Such a move in Europe, when allied with America's anti-boycott legislation (a law which would not readily transfer to Britain and whose effects are as yet unproven) would stand a chance of success. It is not certain, of course, whether a European consensus could be reached. The one country which might not support such an initiative is France. As a preliminary to any European move the British Government should, therefore, press France to give a firm commitment to the anti-boycott cause.

LOCK UP YOUR LABORATORIES

Smallpox, otherwise long extinct in the whole of Europe, has now appeared twice in five years in Britain, each time in association with a laboratory where the virus is stored and handled. The earlier outbreak, in which two victims died, was followed by a public inquiry similar to the one announced yesterday. It uncovered shockingly casual practices in a laboratory at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and made numerous recommendations, of which the principal ones have been put into effect. A code of practice for those handling dangerous pathogens has been drawn up and published, and a standing committee has been set up to investigate and advise the Department of Health about the standards in laboratories seeking to undertake such work. Yet it seems that this was not enough. The failure is one that should cause all those involved with dangerous organisms, chemicals or radioactive materials to re-examine their safety precautions.

There are about fourteen laboratories in the world where smallpox virus is kept for study. Except in Britain, an escape of infection appears to be an extremely rare occurrence. But as the areas in which the disease is endemic have shrunk, these artificially maintained stocks have increasingly come to represent the greatest remaining source of danger. Until this week, there had been growing reason to hope that a hospital worker in Somalia who contracted smallpox last October might be the last human being who would have to suffer from it. The World Health Organisation's ten-year campaign against the disease has been one of the remarkable of all achievements of preventive medicine. As recently as 1974, an epidemic in India caused 22,000 deaths; now smallpox had been virtually eradicated.

In a developed country, a smallpox outbreak, once recognized, is relatively easily brought under control, but only at heavy cost. The 1973 outbreak meant that many business and holiday visits to Britain were cancelled and about four million people had to be vaccinated; the official report said that the financial cost might be measured in millions.

quite apart from the sufferings of the victims themselves. It might seem better to destroy all stock and so remove the risk altogether. Most disappearing species have claims on our protection if only for sentimental reasons, however destructive their habits, but the smallpox virus is not one of them. It has no important function in general scientific research that cannot be served by other kinds of virus. It is not necessary for the preparation of vaccines against itself. But there is a possibility that some future epidemic may occur in which there is doubt whether the cause is smallpox from an overlooked source, or a mutation of some allied virus. Some specimens need to be kept for matching in such an eventuality. A handful of centres will be enough to serve this purpose for the entire world. The WHO hopes to have the number down to five in a few years, and the latest accident should hasten progress towards that goal. It should also serve to dispel any premature complacency about man's still inconclusive victory over one of the most virulent of all his enemies on earth.

The case of Dr Vladimir Zoukhar also has its farcical side, but it has been allowed to get out of hand to the point of jeopardising the completion of the match. Dr Zoukhar is a member of the large Soviet squad which was sent to succour and advise their champion. He is a professor of psychology (parapsychology, says the Korchnoi camp) who sits near the front of the audience throughout each match staring unblinkingly at the players. Korchnoi has protested from the beginning that Dr Zoukhar is planted there to disrupt his play by the exercise of extraordinary powers—hypnotic telepathy, rays, the actual

mechanism is variously suggested. The allegation, though far-fetched, is conceivably correct. What matters much more at this stage is that Korchnoi believes it to be true, and has worked himself up into a state of fury and apprehension which has unmistakably spoiled his play. He has made blunders of a kind grand masters do not make and has thrown away two games neither of which he should have lost.

Latest reports state that the Russians have now agreed to a proposal put by the adjudicators of the match, and put much earlier by Korchnoi himself, that the psychological should sit at the back of the hall from now on, where he would be less conspicuous. It is a request to which there ought to have been ready agreement the moment it became plain that his presence was putting Korchnoi off his game. The refusal until Korchnoi had lost three games in quick succession confirms the disagreeable impression that the warfare of nerves, now part of world championship chess, has overshot the bounds of gamesmanship and entered the domain of the dirty tricks department.

drunkenness offenders in the Leeds magistrates courts compared with 2,578 in 1976, a decrease of 259 (9.95 per cent). The 1977 figure is the lowest for ten years. These figures are only a guide to the tremendous benefit that detoxification centres bring to the individual and to the community. For the community they clearly save considerable amounts of police and court time, and reduce pressure on otherwise overcrowded prisons. In Leeds they have reduced pressure on casualty departments and on other services dealing with the homeless alcoholic. For the individual the detoxification centre offers a response of care and support and a positive opportunity to do something about his drinking problem which could never be offered in the penal system. The benefit to individuals who have been offered such a posi-

tive opportunity can never be measured in figures but can be testified to by the experience of many men who have attended this detoxification centre and have been able subsequently to improve their health and in many cases radically change their lifestyle. The Leeds centre is drawing to the end of its experimental period and is reaching the time when decisions are to be made concerning its future. All the evidence suggests that detoxification centres are a much more constructive and positive response to the situation of the homeless alcoholic and it is our hope that this will be seen clearly by those who will decide. Yours sincerely, WILLIAM KILGALLON, Acting Director, St Anne's Shelter and Housing Action Ltd, 186 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

helping the alcoholic
on Mr William Kilgallon
Your report of August 22, rightly highlighted the impact on drunkenness being made by the St Anne's detoxification centres in Britain. The centre in Leeds operated by the St Anne's group in 1977 dealt with 376 persons (1,054 admissions) and as you rightly report the number of fines as of gulf in the West Yorkshire area showed a fall of 2 per cent compared with the 1976 figure. The Leeds centre provides a service for only two police divisions of the city of Leeds and therefore only a small part of the West Yorkshire area. These figures therefore hide the real impact of the centre on drunkenness in the city of Leeds. In 1977, the first full year of operation of the centre, there were 2,319 proceedings against

drunkenness offenders in the Leeds magistrates courts compared with 2,578 in 1976, a decrease of 259 (9.95 per cent). The 1977 figure is the lowest for ten years. These figures are only a guide to the tremendous benefit that detoxification centres bring to the individual and to the community. For the community they clearly save considerable amounts of police and court time, and reduce pressure on otherwise overcrowded prisons. In Leeds they have reduced pressure on casualty departments and on other services dealing with the homeless alcoholic. For the individual the detoxification centre offers a response of care and support and a positive opportunity to do something about his drinking problem which could never be offered in the penal system. The benefit to individuals who have been offered such a posi-

Bingham must be published

From the Chairman of the British Petroleum Company
Sir, I refer to your leading article today under the title "Bingham must be published". I would not want it to be thought that lack of response by the Company to the criticisms which have appeared in some newspapers in the past few days means that the Company has no answer to them. I welcomed the setting up of the Bingham Inquiry and the Company has cooperated fully with it. I now look forward to the publication of the Report, it being my confident belief that it will contain a fair and objective account of events against the changing context of the past 15 years. I would much prefer that the Company defers making any statement until after such publication. Yours faithfully, DAVID STEEL, Chairman, British Petroleum, 67, Cannon Row, EC2, August 30.

Which locust?

From the Director of the Centre for Overseas Pest Research
Sir, I really can't tell your correspondent Mr. Aston (August 26) get away with the suggestion that the locusts referred to in Peter Hennessy's article on the work of my laboratory (Plotting the Downfall of the Locust, August 22) as the locust of the Old Testament prophets were in fact pods of the locust (carob) tree. Locusts of many species have been used all over the world but particularly in the Middle East as an important food additive, rich in fats and protein, for thousands of years, especially by desert peoples. A bas-relief in Nineveh, about the eighth century BC showing locusts on skewers being offered at the table of the Assyrian King Sennacherib is one of the earliest references to locusts as food which I found in archaeological literature. One of the important points here is that they were lawful food for Muslims; Kamal-ad-Din, a fourteenth-century Arab zoologist, reported that the Prophet himself ordained them lawful and adds that when his wives had sent presents of locusts to himself and his followers on the latter observed "I wish I had a basketful". The species here is the Desert Locust, *Schistocerca gregaria*, the Biblical locust; but many others, including the African Migratory Locust, *Locusta migratoria*, mentioned by Mr. Aston, are also eaten.

Livingstone, who had personal experience of four species, regarded them as a most valuable food for poor African farmers; he disliked them boiled, but found them pleasant when roasted and preferred them to shrimps. My personal experience covers only the two species mentioned above. I remember the first time I ate roasted ones in the company of a French entomologist we compared them favourably to frogs legs. Sometimes they are pounded into flour and made into cakes and bread and are also eaten boiled with couscous.

There therefore can be no doubt that in general locusts are an important and well known food source; purists may, however, continue to argue the special case of St John the Baptist and whether his locusts were botanical or zoological. Yours faithfully, P. T. HASKELL, Director, Centre for Overseas Pest Research, College House, Wrights Lane, W8, August 29.

Carnival casualties

From Mrs P. A. Jackson
Sir, Press reports of the Notting Hill Carnival mention 28 police injuries (including six admitted to hospital) and one serious case of 15 civilians injured, stones, bricks, tins and bottles thrown at the police; not to mention an unspecified number of muggings and much pick-pocket activity. This is described as a "successful and profitable" carnival—surely a curious commentary on present-day values. Yours faithfully, P. A. JACKSON, 11 Cricketers Close, Chessington, Surrey.

Fabians and East Europe

From Mr Dick Leonard
Sir, I am glad that Mr Ian Bradley seems to have enjoyed his visit to our summer school, and all the Fabians here were amused by his glowing account of our activities (August 26). But one aspect of his not unfriendly report does demand correction. He referred to discussions on "the benefits of life in Eastern Europe, which still seems to have a favoured place in Fabian eyes". This is far fetched: the only favourable references made were to Czechoslovakia under Dubcek, and Poland under Gdansk. Professor Maurice Peston's judgment that the Eastern European countries "are not Socialist at all: they are just totalitarian". One speaker did refer to the undoubtedly fact that fewer people have recently been killed by the regime in the Soviet Union than in Chile or Argentina, but that falls far short of being an endorsement. Whatever may have been true of the Webbs in the 1930s, modern Fabians at least are capable of distinguishing the real thing from the phoney and know that without democracy there can be no socialism. Yours, etc., DICK LEONARD, Chairman, Fabian Society and Director of Fabian Summer School, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Weymouth, Dorset.

Villages in a changing world

From Mr F. F. Cartwright
Sir, I write in support of Dr Charles Gurney (August 26) that the post office might be extended to become a centre of village life. It is my experience that, in this very friendly village, at least one hour should be allowed for the purchase of a stamp. But, although agreeing with Dr Gurney, I submit that there is an even more hopeful method of restoring the village social centre in the late medieval period, the parish church was the focal point of village life. The nave served as a meeting place for debate, manorial business, or for plays and other entertainments. The side aisles were refuges in which people turned out of their houses could be accommodated or which sometimes served as hospitals in pestilence. The strong tower afforded lodgement for valuables. Games, predecessor of the modern fires, were played against the north wall. The walled churchyard provided emergency herbage for cattle in times of trouble and was pastured by sheep in times of peace.

High church parsons of the early nineteenth century altered all this. They declared the whole church and churchyard to be hallowed ground. But they were wrong. Only the chancel or sanctuary is the province of the priest. The remainder of the church building exists as much for the use of man as it does for the worship of God. I believe that if Anglican clergy would recognize this fact, the village church would not only regain its importance as the centre of village life but that "church services" would be much better attended. Yours faithfully, F. F. CARTWRIGHT, St Michael's Lodge, Milverton, Taunton.

From Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP for Hexham (Conservative)
Sir, I entirely agree with the comment of my colleague, Mr Jim Spicer (August 26), on village life in modern times. Unfortunately in many rural areas the village school has already disappeared leaving behind a serious problem to aggravate the situation.

A growing cause of further anxiety in the way in which the Post Office are pursuing a policy of closing sub-post offices regardless of the difficulties which country people face when these facilities are no longer available. Their proposals to close two rural sub-post offices in south-west Northumberland brought an immediate reaction from those villages who now have to travel miles to their nearest post office by infrequent public transport. Apart from the time involved, there is a serious loss of financial hardship, particularly to business, because of the additional expense involved.

It seems quite wrong that such decisions should be taken without county and district councils being consulted. Looking ahead, further rural depopulation is inevitable if these facilities are removed. Frequently the sub-post office goes hand in hand with the local shop and it may be impossible to run the one economically without the other.

No longer can it be considered acceptable for people to live in rural areas without the basic infrastructure most people expect to be granted. The task of improving roads, hospitals, schools, shops and public utilities in rural areas goes hand in hand with creating new jobs—or even maintaining existing ones. That is why the Conservative group in the European Parliament have proposed that establishment of a new European East in fee. But it is much to be hoped that such dreams are far from the imagination of the former Minister of the Interior, who that he will rather offer the right hand of sacramental fellowship to his brother of Constantinople. In turn, may the East acknowledge once again, as in the first Christian millennium, that Christ's Church is founded on a Rock. Yours faithfully, R. C. BUTLER, St Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware, Hertfordshire.

Saints John and Paul

From Mrs Freda Jones
Sir, In discussing the reasons why Pope John Paul chose his name the English journalists and the BBC seem to be unaware of the fact that there are two Roman saints, S.S. John and Paul, whose names are always coupled together, to whom churches are dedicated in Rome and in Venice. The church of S.S. Giovanni e Paolo in Rome is not known to many tourists because it is at the back of the Casino hill, but the one in Venice (San Sulpizio in the dialect of Venice) must be known to a great many because it is the burial place of many of the Doges. Not forgetting that Pope John Paul was Archbishop of Venice, and that the two saints were Roman soldiers under Constantine, martyred by Julian the Apostate, one may still speculate on the Pope's reasons for choosing to commemorate them in this way. Yours faithfully, FRED A JONES, 3 Summerfield, Cambridge.

Menotti's 'The Consul'

From Mr George Norman
Sir, I saw *The Consul* after reading Paul Griffiths' review in *The Times* and it gave me considerable pleasure, though I thought the production inferior to that of the Royal Academy of Music last year, perhaps because the latter was supervised by Menotti himself. So far as the opera is concerned, it was written when the composer was 39. Menotti is not Puccini, but then Puccini is not writing today. In any case, Donizetti was not Puccini either, and Puccini was not Verdi, and even Verdi has long since been deprived of contemporary works which do not meet particular critical standards?

pean rural fund which would replace, in the rural context, the regional and social funds which at present concentrate on urban and industrial areas. But this cannot replace our own immediate national responsibility to promote a more comprehensive rural policy. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY RIPPON, House of Commons.

Comment in news broadcasts

From Sir Hugh Greene
Sir, The trouble with Mr Tahu Hole's philosophy of broadcast news (expounded in *The Times* today, Aug 29) is that it led to dullness and obscurity, and to unacceptable restraints on the development of television news, without ensuring any greater degree of accuracy. That is why, when Mr Hole was moved on to other spheres in 1953 by Sir Ian Jacob and I was put in charge of BBC news and current affairs, I proceeded to change things radically. What Mr Hole fails to realize is that the views and explanations of experienced staff correspondents and reporters are in themselves news, and not editorializing, and that they add a lot to the understanding and pleasure of viewers and listeners. To turn the clock back as Mr Hole urges could mean a great loss to the public. Mr Hole was fond of describing the audience to *The Times* in his day as "sober citizens". That strikes me as a rather restricted category. Yours faithfully, HUGH GREENE, Earl's Hall, Cockfield, Suffolk, August 29.

From Mr Frank Gillard
Sir, Even under the Corporation's original editorial philosophy, of which Mr Tahu Hole writes (August 29), one very subjective activity was involved, and that was the task of selecting from the mass of incoming news material the items actually to be broadcast. Distortion was all too easily possible. The public had to trust the BBC and over the years showed its willingness to do so.

If, today, the BBC wishes not only to give us the news, but also to explain what the news might imply, why should the public not show a similar confidence? After all, checks and balances are readily available. The BBC is no longer the monopoly broadcaster that it was in most of Mr Hole's time.

For my part, I just ask for presentation which enables me to distinguish news from comment. Yours faithfully, FRANK GILLARD, Trevor House, Poole, Weymouth, Somerset, August 29.

Abolition of the Lords

From Professor John Griffith, FBA
Sir, Mr David Wood's assessment (column, August 28) fails to take account of one outstanding political fact. Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham and Sir Keith Joseph have all made quite clear that they want a reformed House of Lords with increased powers, the better to prevent a Labour Government from passing socialist measures. This has in my view precluded any possibility of agreement between the parties on the basis of return and has made abolition the only alternative for the Labour Party to pursue. Yours truly, JOHN GRIFFITH, 2 The Close, Spinnfield Lane, Marlton, Buckinghamshire, August 29.

Learning and society

From the Warden of Goldsmiths' College
Sir, The recent correspondence in your columns about the New University Quarterly conference at Westworth Woodhouse has so far paid little attention to one of its main themes. Most members of the conference believe that the universities and polytechnics should not only have a particular responsibility to train young people to do the same, but that they should also advance understanding generally. This means, to put the issue in the briefest shorthand, that they should be critically engaged with their societies.

We believe this role to be only sketchily fulfilled. Most people pursue their own disciplines, scientific or humanistic, in so hermetic a way that they are unaware of wider social or individual implications, that they and their work could be translated with scarcely a jolt into any other type of society, even the most tyrannical and totalitarian. Our professional engagements with society are only of a functional or servicing type. British society, no less than any other, badly needs a better critical interplay between its parts. From Westminster through Tawney to Lewis some of our best writers on the idea of the university have called for these connections, but rarely seen them emerge in any considerable way. The New Universities Quarterly, as its subtitle "Culture, Education and Society" indicates, is committed to expressing and encouraging this idea. Yours faithfully, RICHARD HUGHES, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, SE14, August 29.

Chess confrontation

From Dr Athol Giffitt
Sir, After reading of the parapsychological goings-on in the Philippines, I turn to John Huxington's *Warning of the Middle Ages* (1974). "A simple instance will suffice to show the high degree of irritability which distinguishes the Middle Ages from our own time. One can hardly imagine a more peaceful game than that of chess. Still, like the 'chansons de gestes' of some centuries back, Olivier de la Marche mentions frequent quarrels arising over it: 'le plus saige y pert patience'." Yours faithfully, ATHOL GIFFITT, Vine Cottage, Sea Lane, Chideock, Dorset, August 28.

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

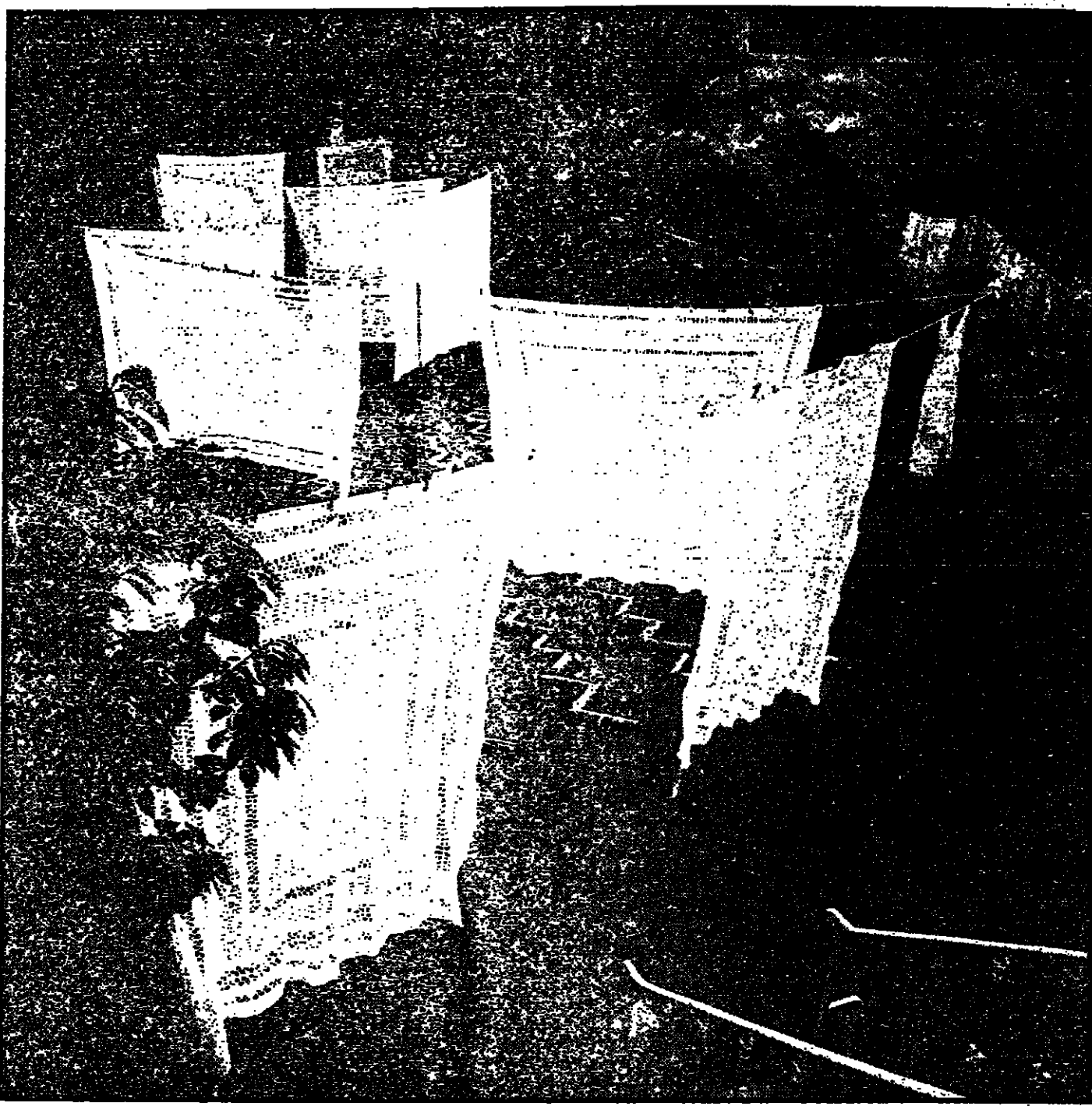
White slavery

I have just inherited my great-aunt's bedspread. It measures 107 x 90 inches, is worked of blond, or natural linen, on to golden linen, and the design is taken from the floor of Saint Miniato in Florence and the Baptistery. At a rough guess there are miles of teeny buttonhole stitching outlining every dove, cube, lozenge, eagle, griffon.

It made me think about hand work. The cover

took from 1906 to 1911 to work (in panels, neatly rolled up, of course, since the whole thing weighs a ton) and was done in Egypt where the light was better for such taxing work.

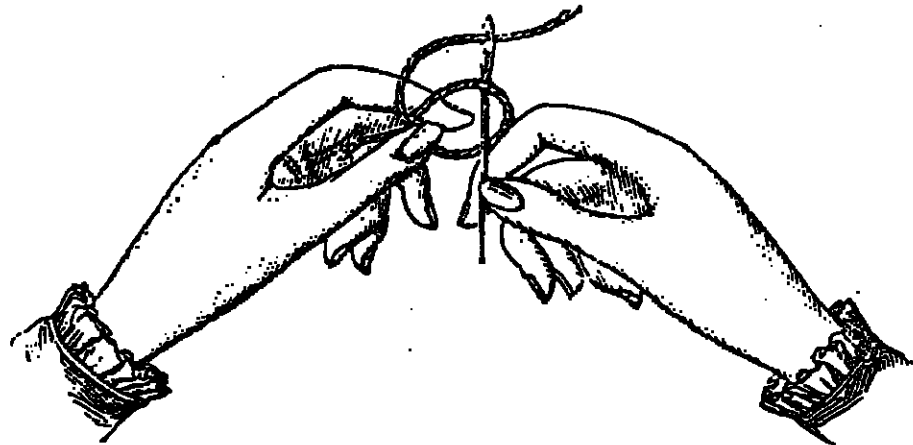
The demands of such embroidery attracted me to an exhibition at House, 62 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1, tel 01-722 1056. There you can see, until September 10, such things as tablecloths from the collection of Doris Dibley [right]. All are for sale—£100 seems to be the median price for a big tablecloth. If costs deter, or inspiration rears its head, read on.



Photograph: Trevor Sullivan

And how to avoid it

No embroidery at all. Wash-proof, colourful, usable on virtually any surface from hanky to toothbrush, and as easy to use "as a ball point pen" is something called Vogart, a colour tube in anything from glitter gold to carmine with which you can speckle, dot, sweep or otherwise indulge your artistic bent on textiles. Myself, I intend to rough up the black and gold lacquered trays and the chips on the borders of my (few) good plates. If Vogart can withstand washing, why not the dishwasher, too? On sale in needlework shops, departmental stores and craft centres, 28 colours at about 85p per tube. Wash china or pottery in hot water with washing soda first, and then take at 250°F for 20 minutes. Practise first, and put blotting paper under fabric (which ought to have been washed once) and do not touch for 48 hours.



Have it made

Tom Bertram makes, among other things, four-post beds, any size, with handsome reeded posts and all the flounces and bouncers and curtains and frills as well. The basic frame costs £450, a box base £100, the making charge for the curtains et al is £100. Bertram will supply a mattress if you want.

machines on the market which can do a surprising amount—and not at the expense of your eyesight. The Swiss-made Elma Electronic SU uses electronics for fine adjustment of sewing speeds. It can be "fed" discs which continually provide new stitches. It can buttonhole, zig-zag, satin stitch, edging stitch, darn, blind stitch, overcast, overlock, saddle stitch, shell stitch, double overlock... the list does not end. £295, available at John Lewis. This must be one of the most sophisticated machines on the market.

See it in...

The Crafts Study Centre at

the Holburne Museum, University of Bath, Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4DP, tel Bath 66669.

See it less at the Bath Museum of Costume, where some pieces of Mrs Doris Langley Moore's generously donated collection must be shifted to provide what I understand to be a watering hole of a different kind. Someone should attack the publicity and promotion of this unique spot, which has so much potential and so little pazz. Commercialism is not mutually exclusive of elegance, nor thronging students of artistic display.

Avoid it by buying it

At the Packhorse Gallery at 5 George St, Bath, tel 0225-4533 Richard Wood has gathered some very attractive textile pictures by Wendy Hughes which sell, framed, for around £45. They make a much more original and appropriate wall decoration for the country house than prints for the same price elsewhere.

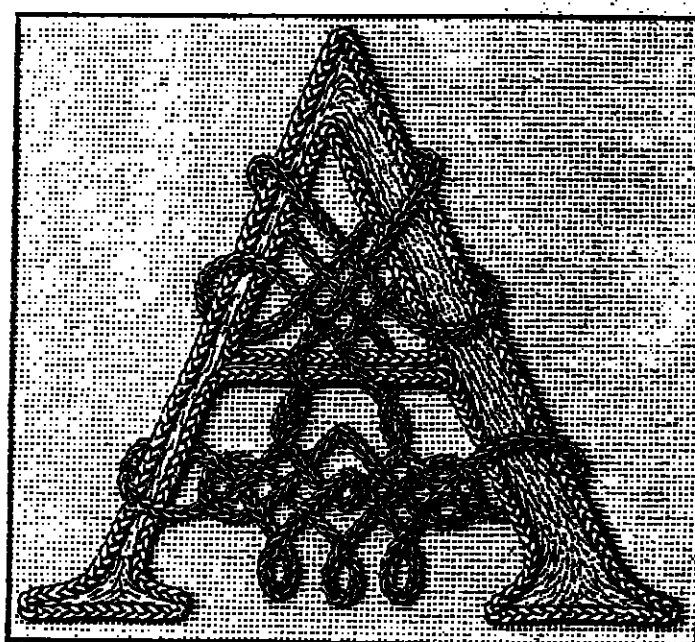
Avoid it by using a machine

No machine can possibly hope to emulate the fine hand stitched drawn thread work our grandmothers excelled at. All the same, there are several

How not to avoid it but do it...

A definitive work was the *Young Ladies Journal and Complete Guide to the Work Table*, published in 1884 by one E. Harrison. More up-to-date advice can be found in the *Encyclopedia of Needlework* by Therese de Dillmont, £6.75 by the DMC Library. Although it was published over 50 years ago it is still one of the best works of reference on all types of needlework—plain sewing, knitting, embroidery on different materials, tapestry, applique, drawn thread work, crochet, tatting, macramé, lace—with very clear diagrams. A larger tome is *The Anchor Manual of Needlework*, £10 published by Batsford.

The Needlewoman shop in 146 Regent Street, London, W1, can provide all the necessities for sewing such complicated designs.



Fancy a flag

The Englishman's home is his castle, as we all know, and with devolutionism spreading how long will it be before you want to hoist your own banner to prove that at least you've paid off the mortgage? Penelope Kneel is 26 and studied textile and fashion design at Manchester Polytechnic. She has been busy stitching away at flags for the National Trust. This particular territorial marker is for Sir Edmund Neville and incorporates a mace of heraldic oak leaves, rampant lions holding up the remains of something one they have eaten, Tudor roses and a peal of bells. As the alien hordes (no, not just the tourists) advance why not emulate the better class of chapel and stately home and hang a handsome declaration of your pedigree? They are lovely to stare with, romantic in age. Details of costs, designs, delivery, from Penelope Kneel at 69 Sprowston Road, Norwich, Norfolk.



Opening hours

Anette Worsley-Taylor, who spearheads the London Designers twice-yearly group showings, and Jenny Hadow, who has helped out another protagonist of better British design, Eric Hall, have decided that they must put their shop where their mouth is. On Tuesday, Taylor and Hadow opened at 37 Beauchamp Place, London, SW3, tel 01-589 4243. It stocks the work of such as Chatters (tweeds and leathers), and a subsidiary of the vast Monet concern. Paul Howie knits, Patricia Roberts knits—she has a new magazine out on September 21, published twice yearly and edited by herself—satins and silks from Adrian Cartmel, what are described as late day dresses from a sparkling group, and blouses too.

Courreges

Courreges used to be a name to conjure with. Somewhat tamed of latter years, he opens a boutique in competitive Bond Street on September 1. Once an innovative force, darling of the space-age brigade, the pre-opening editorials on Courreges make one wonder how he will make out with Parisian prices and a somewhat subdued look. The address is 153A New Bond St.

And those dogs

As I expected, readers are far keener to dress their four-footed friends neatly than care about what Paris decrees for themselves. The address of Dri-Dog Bags, which really are something quite other than what one could run up after a few bus needles from a couple of worn out bath towels is Angel Mill, Westbury Wiltshire, telephone Westbury (0373) 864775. They are available from a pack of pet shops and stores, plus some rather less expected outlets such as The Flower Girl at Stow-on-the-Wold and The Fruit Basket in Warminster. Able as well as amiable, James Blair, who founded Canac caters for those of us who prefer *felis catus* to some raucous hound. I have yet to tell him that my own *felis catus*, Felix, will only dispose his elegant Nubian couch form under my bed or in a fruit basket, safe from the impertinence of minute vulgar orphans from the bag-bales. I have a feeling he would not take to Mr Blair's chic draught-proof Pet Beds, £5.50 upwards, but doubtless many would.



Just for special occasions?

You probably bring your best china out only once or twice a year. Are you doing the same with your Access Card? If you are, you may be missing out on something. Access could take a lot of stress and strain off your family budget. How?

By taking the load off your bank account. By reducing the need to write out so many cheques. By avoiding the necessity of going into overdraft. All these things cost money in the long run.

You can save money by using Access to snap up bargains as they come along. Things like D.I.Y. and decorating equipment are not going to get any cheaper. Pay for your season ticket with Access—before the next round of fare increases.

If you've bought goods and services with Access and you settle your account, in full, before the date given on your statement, the service need cost you nothing. Or you can spread your payments.

So don't just use your Access Card for special occasions. Use it today and every day and see how much you'll benefit.

Cost of £30 over 3 months:	
Month 1	£10.20
Month 2	£10.20
Month 3	£10.21
Total	£30.61
Interest paid	£0.61



Use Access to make the most of your money.

The minimum interest payable with an Access Card is 2% p.a.
A SERVICE OF LLOYDS, MIDLAND, NATIONAL WESTMINSTER, WILLIAMS & GLENN AND CYDNEY ALBANKS, THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, NORTHERN AND ULSTER BANKS.
For further details, call in at any bank displaying the Access sign or write to Access, Joint Credit Card Company, at Southampton-on-Sea, 5899 088.

حکومت اسلامی

SOCIAL NEWS

Duke of Gloucester will open International Museum, Bath, on September 26.

Mr. M. Graham, after 15 years as chairman of the Board of Governors of Poughmore College, decided to resign from that post and to take up the post of Commandant in the Gloucestershire Regiment, which he has been appointed to do from September 1.

Deaths today

Donald Allen, 84; Air Marshal Robert Baker, 82; Lord Bess of Brighthelm, 85; General Sir Arthur, 83; Lieutenant Sir Robert, 82; Professor Sir Bernard, 82; Mr. Sir, 80; Mr. Sir, 79; Mr. Sir, 78; Mr. Sir, 77; Mr. Sir, 76; Mr. Sir, 75; Mr. Sir, 74; Mr. Sir, 73; Mr. Sir, 72; Mr. Sir, 71; Mr. Sir, 70; Mr. Sir, 69; Mr. Sir, 68; Mr. Sir, 67; Mr. Sir, 66; Mr. Sir, 65; Mr. Sir, 64; Mr. Sir, 63; Mr. Sir, 62; Mr. Sir, 61; Mr. Sir, 60; Mr. Sir, 59; Mr. Sir, 58; Mr. Sir, 57; Mr. Sir, 56; Mr. Sir, 55; Mr. Sir, 54; Mr. Sir, 53; Mr. Sir, 52; Mr. Sir, 51; Mr. Sir, 50; Mr. Sir, 49; Mr. Sir, 48; Mr. Sir, 47; Mr. Sir, 46; Mr. Sir, 45; Mr. Sir, 44; Mr. Sir, 43; Mr. Sir, 42; Mr. Sir, 41; Mr. Sir, 40; Mr. Sir, 39; Mr. Sir, 38; Mr. Sir, 37; Mr. Sir, 36; Mr. Sir, 35; Mr. Sir, 34; Mr. Sir, 33; Mr. Sir, 32; Mr. Sir, 31; Mr. Sir, 30; Mr. Sir, 29; Mr. Sir, 28; Mr. Sir, 27; Mr. Sir, 26; Mr. Sir, 25; Mr. Sir, 24; Mr. Sir, 23; Mr. Sir, 22; Mr. Sir, 21; Mr. Sir, 20; Mr. Sir, 19; Mr. Sir, 18; Mr. Sir, 17; Mr. Sir, 16; Mr. Sir, 15; Mr. Sir, 14; Mr. Sir, 13; Mr. Sir, 12; Mr. Sir, 11; Mr. Sir, 10; Mr. Sir, 9; Mr. Sir, 8; Mr. Sir, 7; Mr. Sir, 6; Mr. Sir, 5; Mr. Sir, 4; Mr. Sir, 3; Mr. Sir, 2; Mr. Sir, 1.

Mr. P. N. Davies

Mr. P. N. Davies, Minister of Agriculture, will open the new £100 million Welsh Development Corporation office in Cardiff on September 1.

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Marriages

Mr. J. Crowder and Miss E. S. Guest took place on August 23 at Black Creek, Vancouver Island, between Mr. J. Crowder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crowder, and Miss E. S. Guest, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Margaret Guest, of Kennington Park Road, SE11.

Mr. S. A. D. Hall and Miss T. A. Bartlett took place on Saturday at the church of St. Barnabas, Great Toy, Essex, between Mr. S. A. D. Hall, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hall, and Miss T. A. Bartlett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bartlett.

Mr. S. P. C. Clarke and Miss A. Harvey took place on August 25 at the church of St. Michael, London, between Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

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Quality of dahlias high despite bad start

By Our Horticultural Correspondent

The National Dahlia Society goes from strength to strength each year, as was evidenced yesterday by the display of blooms staged by the trade and amateur growers at the annual show in the Royal Horticultural Society's new and old halls, Westminster.

Quality throughout was high, with about 1,700 varieties from 270 exhibitors, an increase of a tenth on last year. Although bad weather had caused difficulties in the early part of the season the recent dry spell enabled exhibitors to display excellent blooms.

The premier award in the trade section, the Bentley Perpetual Challenge Trophy for an exhibitor over 25 years, was won for the second year running by G. C. Richard of Uppingham.

The Harry Strickland Perpetual Challenge Cup for a meritorious trade exhibitor, aged 16 or less, was won by Butterfield Nurseries, Haveston Hill, Upper Burnage End, for the second year in succession.

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Blooms being judged from all angles at the National Dahlia Society's show.

Lower left: Stephen F. Crowder, 12, won the Bentley Perpetual Challenge Cup for a meritorious trade exhibitor, aged 16 or less, for the second year in succession.

Lower middle: Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

Lower right: Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

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Far left: Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

Far middle: Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

Far right: Mr. S. P. C. Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. C. Clarke, and Miss A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR JAMES CRAIGIE

Wide research in bacteriology

Professor James Craigie, F.R.S., who died in Edinburgh on August 26 at the age of 79, was one of the many Scottish graduates who played an important part in bringing Canadian medical research to the high level it has achieved today.

A graduate of St. Andrew's University, where he qualified in 1923, he served his apprenticeship as a bacteriologist there. In 1931 he migrated to the Connaught Laboratories in Toronto, where he was to spend the next 15 years, in due course becoming Professor of Virus Infections at Toronto University. In addition, he was secretary of the School of Hygiene.

During this exciting period in bacteriology which witnessed the virus explosion, Toronto played a leading part in the research field, and Craigie was one of the outstanding members of the research team, helping to lay those solid foundations on

which virology has been built up. His standing is exemplified by his membership of the Joint United States-Canadian Commission on Rinderpest, and his election as president of the Society of American Bacteriologists, and also as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, in 1946. He was also awarded the United States of America Typhus Commission medal in that year, and the following year the Medal of Freedom.

Craigie was, however, no narrow specialist. He was a searching mind that roved widely, and he completed his professional career by a decade as a scientific staff of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Here, as an experimental oncologist, he proved a valuable and stimulating member of the staff until his retirement in 1964.

He was elected FRS in 1947, and was made OBE a year earlier. He is survived by his two daughters.

MR MICHAEL PAPANTONIO

Mr Michael Papantonio, co-founder of the Seven Gables Bookshop in New York and one of the most knowledgeable booksellers in the world in his chosen field, died in New York, died on August 19, aged 71.

Born in West Hoboken, New Jersey, on February 25, 1907, of Italian immigrant parents, he was one of a large family. When he left school in 1923, he went to work at the Brick Row Bookshop in New York, whose proprietor was Byrne Hacken, a mercantile Irishman who was one of the few people in the business who were not self-educated. He had a very good memory and worked hard; in 1937 he was able to open his own shop at 509 Madison Avenue.

All too soon, war brought the old book trade (always a transatlantic business) to a standstill. Papantonio waited for the birth of his eldest son and then in March 1943 joined the US Army Medical Corps and served in the Pacific. While on active service he met a colleague, John Van E. Kohn, and they decided to join forces after the war. The Seven Gables Bookshop (a name chosen at random, after vain attempts to combine their names) opened in 1946 at 3 East 46th Street, where it has remained ever since. It quickly established a dominant position in the New York market for American literature.

Mr Papantonio was a collector, and his unrivalled collection of American book-bindings is a field carefully chosen where he had no competitors. He has been mainly given to the sense of loss which all those who feel who knew this frail, quiet and immensely kind man.

Papantonio married Eleanor Clifton in 1934. She died in 1972, and they are survived by two sons.

MR H M O'CONNOR

Patients owe, its existence to him. Starting with a loan of £300, he sought help from friends and charitable funds, and in 1964 was offered £10,000 from the King's Scholarship.

He succeeded, and in 1968 the library felt able to launch an appeal, which raised £50,000. He himself bore all the expenses of

NEW BOOKS

Coleridge as a leader writer and special correspondent

Coleridge: Essays on His Times. Volume 3 of The Collected Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Edited by David V. Erdman. (Routledge, Vols I, II, and III, £15 each)

After the engaging travesty of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's life recently shown on Independent Television, and now an official English entry for the Italia Prize, it is I suppose worth putting on record that poor S.T.C. did not in fact back his wife to death with an anchor in a rowing-boat on Derwent Water; that his contribution to literature did not quite end with "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and "Kubla Khan"; and that during the period 1799-1816 when his opium addiction was at its most severe, and according to Mr Russell he spent most of his time squirming "amidst shiny things" on the floorboards of Greta Hall, or howling "with a mazy motion" over the heights of Skiddaw and Helvellyn, Coleridge did somehow manage to pay visits to Germany, Malta and Italy; to write the whole of the "Biographia Literaria"; the "Statesman's Manual"; his newsletter "The Friend" (27 weekly issues); and the magical second part of "Christabel"; to have a successful play staged at Drury Lane; to give three months' public lectures on Shakespeare at the Surrey Institution to an audience that included Byron, Hazlitt, and most of the London literati; and with an imaginative impact which has continued through all modern production from Hayley Granville-Barker to the R.S.C.; and finally to throw off—in between fits, as it were—over a thousand pages of formidable current-affairs journalism, which make up the three solid volumes of the present collection.

However, to be fair to Mr Russell (and especially to his co-scriptwriter Melvyn Bragg), their moribund wrecked Master does reflect—through a kind of gross, fish-eye lens—the hostile shape of much recent Coleridgean study—notably work by René Wellek (1959), Norman Fennell's *The Domestic Archangel* (1972), and Molly Lefebvre's narrow *Coleridge: A Bondage of Opium* (1974)—all of which attempt to account for Coleridge, not as "one of the two seminal English minds of his age", but rather as a turncoat, a plagiarist, and a pitiful drug-addict.

The defence of Coleridge has come, most signally, not from his biographers, but from his editors. Hence the importance of these three volumes which form part of a tremendous effort of patient and faithful scholarship to rescue both the Dream Mariner, and the Sage of Highgate, from his colourful detractors. In 1957 Kathleen Coburn began the publication of Coleridge's truly astonishing *Notebooks* (1796-1819), an inner-life portrait which follows the early visionary poetry with a piece of confessional literature that largely restores the balance of his career. Professor Coburn is also the General Editor of the (Bollingen) *Collected Works*, confined in six series of "volumes" or parts, which began publication in 1969, and of which the three books of *Essays on his Times* stands as part—of volume 3.

Coleridge contributed these essays, or "leaders", to two daily newspapers: *The Morning Post* (from 1798-1803, vol I), and *The Courier* (from 1804-1818, vol II). The former to the R.S.C.; and finally to throw off—in between fits, as it were—over a thousand pages of formidable current-affairs journalism, which make up the three solid volumes of the present collection.

that Stuart, the *Post's* editor, offered Coleridge half-shares in the paper in 1800, and in refusing a regular position, he turned down an estimated salary of £2,000 per annum. Coleridge's annuity from the Wedgewoods was then worth £300, on their separation he made this over to his wife, Susan, observed: "To write the leading paragraph of a paper I would prefer Coleridge to Mackintosh, Burke, or any man I ever heard of." But when Coleridge wrote the study, without the printer's devil at his elbow, he wandered and lost himself. A leading bookseller and editor, Sir Richard Phillips, tapped Coleridge on the shoulder once at a Fleet Street dinner: "I wish I had you in a garret without a coat on your back!" Coleridge retold this as one of the greatest compliments ever paid him.

Coleridge's main journalistic theme during these years was the shifting English response to the French Revolution, the career of Bonaparte, and the ministerial handling of peace and war policies. His essays were a brilliant series analysing Bonaparte's rise to the command of Europe, and by Plutarchian comparison, the dangerously "abstract" quality of the Younger Pitt's political authority. These are essays, which, as David Erdman notes appreciatively, one has the impression of history's being slowed down for his portrait.

But from this central theme, a host of related issues pass beneath the stately, thoughtful, frequently mocking Coleridgean pen: the social impact of war on attitudes to poverty, patriotism, or flagging; problems of press-censorship and loyalty; women's rights; the political apostasy of his old friend Robert Southey (gallantly, but clumsily defended in volume II); the superseding reaction to the Luddite Corner of 1811; the assassination of Pitt's successor Spencer Perceval in the lobby of the Commons; all of which serve to build up an intricate mosaic of those times "that tried men's souls".

Admittedly many of the articles will have lost their currency for the general reader, foundering beneath the baronies of Mr Erdman's footnotes. But ever and again history bursts back into the light with one of Coleridge's splashy metaphors, or some wild pucker-sally: an April Fool's Day article modestly proposing the Abolition of the Church of England, or a positively *Nexus* of the *World* series about the "Beauty of Butter" mere, a local Cumberland girl (admired by all the Lake poets) who was undone by a bigamist gentleman of



fraudulent intentions, subsequently hanged at the Carlyle Assize, but only after a death-cell interview by Our Special Correspondent S.T.C.

My one editorial criticism is that Coleridge's political poems—"Fire, Famine and Slaughter," the "Ode to France," "Fears in Solitude," etc.—which were originally contributed alongside his essays to these columns (and which were indeed included in his free-charge contracts) are unaccountably missing from their place in this edition. (They were, of course, appear in the "Poetical Works" Volume 16). This omission partly masks the full power of Coleridge's reaction to current affairs. Moreover they are particularly significant in indicating the true nature of Coleridge's own political "apostasy", which is of course one of the leitmotifs of the whole three volumes.

From an almost Jacobin position in the thirties, Coleridge "ascendanted" the world is Mr Erdman's—across the political spectrum, through a state of "loyal opposition" at the turn of the century, to moments of outright Ministerial puffing in some of the later *Courier* pieces. Of the *World* series, which, Coburn, etc., are equitably primed in Vol III). What ultimately emerges is far more to Coleridge's credit, both as an exceptional daily commen-

NEW FICTION

Crime

SS-GB
By Len Deighton
(Cape, £4.95)

The life of history. As a current feature series in this paper shows, they are always fascinating. And Deighton himself is a writer, too, who with his sharp intelligence, his rapid-deavouring research, his gift for the vivid, and sets down his answer in the form of a story that moves marvellously from A to Z but yet has in it a whole store of those revealing and revealing details that delight the connoisseur of espionage fiction, then we can expect something altogether grabbable.

And we get it. The picture of what life in London, and in particular within New Scotland Yard, would have been like when the German occupation had settled into its stride is soberly convincing. Deighton has woven out the probabilities with computer-like thoroughness. But he uses his discoveries in no flashy, designed-to-shock way, nor does he pile them on. The whole just comes quietly, arising from ordinary, austere, first-hand, ordinary, possible days of the early 1940s with added, notably likely touches springing from that victory that might have been, the burgeon-

ing tailors' trade in field-grey uniforms, the suddenly erected barriers in the streets, the menacing measure of a cup of real coffee.

Yet, alas and alas, there is a yet. The book is not the triumph it ought to have been. The triumph, I think, from Deighton's relationship with his hero Douglas Archer, a successful London-trained CID officer, altogether interestingly shown as wavering in his dealings with his German superiors. Somehow one fails, however, fully to identify with him, not because of his altering attitudes (which of us would have been an unequivocal Resistance hero?), but because he shifts in Deighton's view. Sometimes he is called Douglas, sometimes he is called Douglas, sometimes he is called Douglas, and sometimes we are left to half a page into seeing through different eyes altogether, a sure sign that the matter in hand is not engaging its author as fully as it should.

But do not fail to read the book. It is still full of rich rewards.

Coppergold, by Pauline Glen Winslow (Collins, £4.25). This is very good. It is attractive, a couple of wide moral concerns and odd individuality of atmosphere strongly recalls Margery Allingham.

The Point of Murder, by Margaret Yorke (Hutchinson, £4.25). Chance small-town killing leads to the beginning of a series (mostly) to horror-kidnap. From which emerges a fine portrait of a certain sort of woman.

Dealer's Move, by Steve Wilson (Macmillan, £3.95). Revenge murder mystery, the London Highlands, as told by refreshingly new-generation, down-market drug-pusher (but a cocaine-selling hero?). It opens up a world.

Welfare, by Craig Thomas (Michael Joseph, £4.50). Classic espionage tale set in 1963 London and France with tortured and betrayed ex-Resistance man rediscovering his 1944 self. Fiercely told, if lacking compassion.

Death of a Dandified Diamond, by Madeline Duke (Michael Joseph, £4.50). Medical mystery with excellent diagnostic plot and sharply seen today's Paddington setting combined with Zimbabwean exotica (where politics, alas, muscle in).

Nineteen Red Roses, by Torben Nielsen (Collins, £3.95). Less revenge tale in darkling Denmark as man (called "he" throughout) tracks down hit-and-run killers. But the writing is full of acute observation.

Desouza Pays the Price, by Freney Olbrich (Heinemann, £3.95). In India, planning a tycoon against best odds. Too seriously different pattern of crime. Welcome recruit to scanty ranks of fictional Bombay detectives.

Mingled with Venom, by Gladys Mitchell (Michael Joseph, £4.25). Cornwall, murder, Duncie Bearance on the warpath. Lovers of the good old who are everywhere are still admirably catered for.

H. R. F. Keating

Every shade of moral choice

Final Payments
By Mary Gordon
(Hamish Hamilton, £4.95)

Never mind about its being a first novel—this is one of the best novels of any kind I have read in recent years of reviewing new fiction. Mary Gordon arrives among us fully grown, as it were, mature, wise and, above all, a writer. The book is full of lessons about the art of creative literature, and about life, and how each reflects and enhances the other. It also reinvents the truth not merely that there is no truth under the sun, in the simple sense of plots, themes and character-situations, but that it does not in the least matter; rather the contrary, indeed. She brings fresh insights and new, convincing, and works her way to a revelation of certain deep, basic truths, moral, emotional, political.

Her material is unremarkable, the stuff of many a 20th century American novel about young women in the city, about the closed-society of certain religious cultures; her book is full upon those who grow up in them, and about difficult relationships between parents and children.

Isabel Moore is 30 and her

father has just died. For eleven years of her young adult life, she has nursed him after a stroke, in confined, oppressive circumstances. He was a Roman Catholic, a proud intellectual who sought to teach the priests their trade, possessed of a dominating and physically helpless, Isabel loved and hated him, and stayed with him out of a sense of duty for which she was universally praised and in which she took an over-weening pride.

Now, she has to begin her life, and discover herself. She is both raw and terrified of the world, and desperate for it, for love, sex, freedom, comforts; friendship she already has, with Eleanor, the sophisticated and exuberant, and Liz, ambitious, tough, savvy. This is a very simple to her at first, black or white, right or wrong. She learns that in fact they are tremendously complicated and uncertain; and again, at an even deeper level, starkly simple on closer inspection.

I have made the novel sound

If it sounds like the old story, well, that is exactly the story of a good many real lives, causing joy, anguish, guilt, the feelings of the flesh and of the spirit. It presents individuals like Isabel with every shade of moral choice every day. And this is not a book about moralising, grasping each problem in both hands, laying it bare, wrestling with it in all its subtleties and duplicities. She is an ambitious writer, and brave, and also blindingly honest. She is not flinching in her determination to face, through her main character, the most intimate and uncomfortable facts, and to make her readers do so. Isabel suffers from herself, but because of the totality of her immersion into life, she will survive. This is a very simple to her at first, black or white, right or wrong. She learns that in fact they are tremendously complicated and uncertain; and again, at an even deeper level, starkly simple on closer inspection.

Susan Hill

Quick guide

Jack and Jill, by Helen Hodgman (Duckworth, £3.95). Second novel (following Blue Skies) shows no diminution of power from the chronicler of awful Australia. The heroine Jill begins the book by spending four days with the corpse of her husband, brought up alone by gruesome Dad on a small sheep farm, forced into some education by a dog-gone schoolmistress, raped by Jack the farm hand, who seizes down

after drifting into her life. Back from university she marries Jack. "Jack is the slug, the salad of my life," he says, by now a war crippled veteran, she a best-selling children's author. In a dead pan, laconic Australian style, it's ferociously funny to the very end. Immensely stimulating, like a small dose of strychnine.

Emperor, by Colin Thubron (Heinemann, £4.10). A very rewarding novel, historical in the sense that it recounts, in letters, memoirs, diaries and notes the progress of the Emperor Constantine towards Rome to defeat the

tyrant Maxentius, on the way experiencing a conversion to Christianity; it also examines the nature of power, of religious experience, of Rome as a society (though Constantine, as an Illyrian could not be strictly considered a Roman) and the complex relationship between Constantine and his wife, sister of Maxentius, who culminates many years later, in her execution. The novel, principally related by Constantine's private secretary Synesius, reveals what might have happened, exploring, as the novel says, "regions where history is silent."

Philippa Toomey

The night sky in September

By Our Astronomical Correspondent

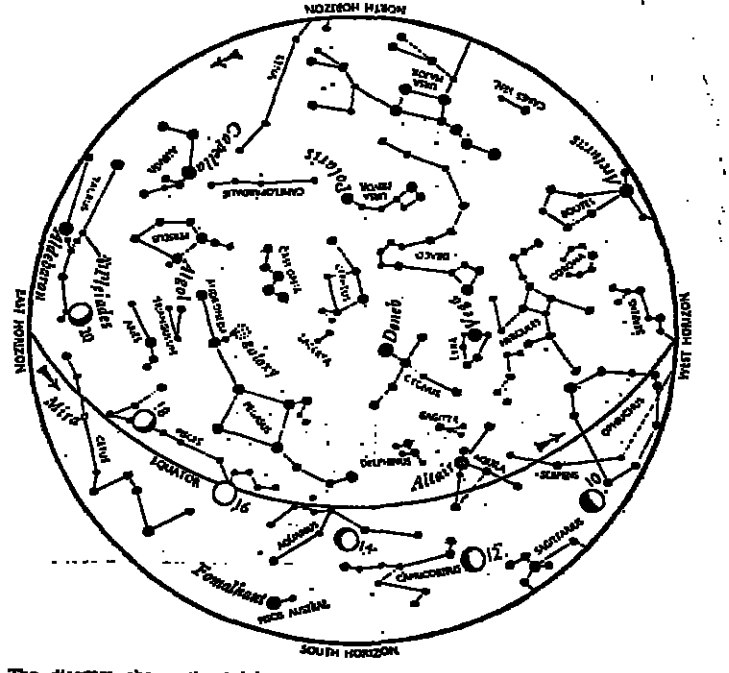
Mercury is a morning star reaching its greatest elongation on the 4th. For the following week it will be rising an hour and a half before the Sun and will brighten. Morning elongation in September is favourable for observation. Superior conjunction on the 30th. Venus remains low in the west, setting about an hour after the Sun, but will brighten during the month. Moon a few degrees north of it on the 10th in the west, but being much fainter than Venus is hardly observable.

Jupiter is a bright morning object in Cancer and by the end of the month will be rising as early as midnight. Moon near it on the morning of the 27th.

Saturn is now a morning star but too near the Sun for observation. Uranus and Neptune are both setting before the hour of our map. The Moon: new, 2nd 15h; first quarter, 10th 15h; full, 16th 19h (eclipse); last quarter, 24th 05h. On the 16th the Moon will be almost totally eclipsed when it rises in the United Kingdom. Total eclipse will last from 18h25m to 19h45m, and the Moon will leave the umbra (the full, readily observed shadow) at 20h49.

The autumn equinox will be on the 23rd at 09h26m. The twelve-hour day will be the 26th.

Algo: approximate times of evening minima are 11d22 and 14d19h.



Mira: readers interested in this variable star should note that it is at its maximum brightness at the end of the month at about the naked-eye limit.

In the July notes the plane of the ecliptic was discussed. This is the plane in or near which the Sun and planets move, and the line of moons on our map.

It is unfavourable for observing evening planets. Venus, for example, has an elongation from the Sun measured along the ecliptic of 44°, but this does not lift it very high above the horizon. It sets an hour after the Sun and is in strong twilight for that hour.

The diagram shows the brighter stars of the night sky of our map. The Moon: new, 2nd 15h; first quarter, 10th 15h; full, 16th 19h (eclipse); last quarter, 24th 05h. On the 16th the Moon will be almost totally eclipsed when it rises in the United Kingdom. Total eclipse will last from 18h25m to 19h45m, and the Moon will leave the umbra (the full, readily observed shadow) at 20h49.

making a favourable period for observing planets. This Moon will have an elongation of only 18° above the horizon for an hour and a half before sunrise at the beginning of the month.

At the beginning of the month the astronomical twilight ends (that is the sky is completely dark except for man-made illumination) at

Hannah Arendt

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How beautiful they stand

Life in the English Country House
A Social and Architectural History

By Mark Girouard
(Yale University Press, £10)

The popular image of the country house is that of a stately pleasure dome; a Standish Castle where it was always summer, where the host had Threewood and the Aga-i not Kubla Khan diverted themselves with croquet, cucumber sandwiches and romantic dalliance. Mark Girouard demonstrates that this was more power-house than pleasure dome, power in the most fundamental sense as the centre of local government, the seat of law and order; power because of the votes and rents that were derived from the surrounding acres; power because there was influence to be won by judicious entertainment and the provision of a congenial base for conspiracy or planning. They were places of beauty, designed for relaxation, but also they were the headquarters of a ruling class. They stood for privilege but also responsibility; as Gilbert Scott put it, "landed gentry were placed by providence in a position of authority and dignity; and no false modesty should deter him from expressing this, quietly and gravely, in the character of his house."

Mr Girouard demonstrates clearly that, while the gravity and quietness were not invariable, authority and dignity were never lacking. This enthralling and immensely informative book had its origins in the Slade lectures

of 1975-76. It is superbly illustrated—traced photographs not merely embellish the text but strengthen and illuminate it. It tells, with wit, scholarship and lucidity, how the country house evolved to meet the needs and reflect the social attitudes of the times. It deals not only with houses but also with the people who lived in them and the life that went on in them. It could only have been written by an architectural historian who was keenly interested in society and literature. Mr Girouard is at home not only with the blueprints of architects but with medieval romances and Jacobean poets, with Maria Edgeworth and John Buchan. His book is as well-written as it is instructive.

Unnumbered, fascinating studies run through his work. One of the most interesting is the position of the domestic servant. It is curious how in a country which is generally felt to have moved inexorably to equality, the relationship between master and servant grew ever more distant. In the medieval great hall they ate together, often at the same table. Then came the retreat of the family to the great chamber, leaving the servant the run of the hall. From this they were gradually ejected and, with the invention of the backstairs, the separation became more marked and rigid. The servants were immured in closets or sequestered in basements. Upstairs-downstairs became the norm until the invention of the bellhop enabled the country house owner to expel the domestic staff to its own wing—more comfortable but also more remote. The ultimate refinement was to exile them to separate

passages. Total invisibility was the aim—the Duke of Portland would sack any housemaid unlucky enough to meet him in a corridor. The divorce was never complete but as Mr Girouard writes:

It can still be a disconcerting experience to push through the back doors... that avoided the servants' hall, the family, and pass from carpets, big rooms, light, comfort and air to dark corridors, closets, poky rooms, and the ghostly smell of stale candle.

The book is rich in nuggets of information which would embellish any dinner-table conversation. When Edward IV's Queen ate, everyone except her maids and sisters-in-law were to kneel and kiss her hand. And she ate for three hours... And all were silent. In Northumberland, in 1560, 92 out of the 146 leading gentry could not write their own names. The Duke of Chandos, in 1772, had a household of 90, including an orchestra of 16. Lord Dundonald installed gas at Dundonald Castle in 1787. In 1828 the Duchess of St Albans gave a breakfast which began at 3 pm and went on till midnight. The Bishop of Rochester so hated tobacco that he would refuse to smoke in his bedroom.

One could quote such snippets indefinitely but to do so would be to belittle this book. Having read it, I view the country house in an entirely new light and I wish again even those I know best as to try out my new-found understanding. Mr Girouard has enriched my life and will do the same for countless others.

Philip Ziegler

Footnotes to the Nineties

Henry Harland: His Life and Work

By Karl Beckson
(The Nineties Society, £6.25)

The Chameleon A Facsimile Edition Introduction by H. Montgomery Hyde and an essay by Timothy Arch Smith
(The Nineties Society, £25)

Henry Harland was an impassioned admirer of Henry James. And so he should have been, for his life was like something out of a James novel. Of a solid middle-class WASP background, he first made a success in America by determining, with gusto, that American get-up-and-go, that readers needed right then and there, was sensational Jewish novels and providing for this need under the ethnically ambiguous pen-name of Sidney Lusk. On the proceeds of this activity he

moved to London and set up as a literary agent using his own name. He was self-consciously civilized and cultivated than the Europeans he had settled among. Here, too, he was successful: dainty tales like *My Friend Prospero* and *Grey Rose* sold and made him a reputation; perhaps they were inspired primarily by the same acute sense of what the market wanted. In the 1940s, he was ripe for. Certainly this came into play in his best-remembered venture, *The Yellow Book*, of which he was literary editor while Beardsley was artistic editor and (which shows that, in spite of the touches of modish decadence in his writings, he was regarded as a regular guy) after Beardsley had left in the wake of the Wilde scandal. Though *My Friend Prospero* and *The Cardinal's Skull-Box* were Penguin in the 1940s, is doubtful if anyone reads Harland now, and Professor

Beckson does not make much of a case for our doing so again. But Harland does emerge as worth remembering, if only as a footnote to James. The *Yellow Book* was one of the important indirect causes for Beardsley's departure from *The Yellow Book*. A one-shot undergraduate magazine of December 1894, lavishly illustrated in 100 copies only, it contained Lord Alfred Douglas's "love that dare not speak its name" poem and a lushly pederastic story. The priest and the Acolyte" generally, though wrongly, attributed to Wilde. Much play was made of both at the trial, and even innocent bystanders like Beardsley were tarred with the same brush. Since, obviously, the original is very rare, it is useful to have this facsimile, though even by today's standards it is absurdly overpriced.

John Russell Taylor

Paperbacks are reviewed on Saturday by Ray Gosling, Caroline Moorehead, Richard Holmes, Kay Dick, Derek Parker and Nicholas Wapshott. Books reviewed next Thursday include New York Jew, by Alfred Kazin, reviewed by Richard Holmes: Fiction reviewed by Jan Morris, Elaine Feinstein.

Shell plans to counter 1980s fall-off in chemicals

By Peter Hill

Shell Chemicals UK is to put greater emphasis on the development of new businesses over the next 10 years. A recently completed internal review of corporate objectives for 1979-1983 concludes that there is little prospect of a return to the high growth rates of the industry up to 1973.

Planning at Shell, one of the biggest United Kingdom-based chemical concerns, is being based on annual GNP growth rates in Western Europe of about 2½ per cent over 1979-88.

The company believes chemical products are no longer so readily substituted for more traditional materials as the industry itself matures. For Shell this means that surplus capacity for most of its products will continue well into the next decade.

It has already frozen plans for a new cracker plant, although other major capital investments are going ahead, mostly geared to improving efficiency and cutting costs.

According to the company's newspaper, *Spectrum*, there will be greater emphasis in future on areas of higher added value and profitability, including specialist chemicals.

Shipping earns record £1,035m, but fall expected as recession bites

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

British shipping earned a record £1,035m for the balance of payments in 1977, but the figure is expected to be sharply down this year as the four-year recession begins to bite into the fortunes of more owners.

Commenting on the figure—£21m up on the previous record in 1976—Mr Ronnie Swayne, president of the General Council of British Shipping, said yesterday that although inflation had played its part it was a "remarkable and encouraging achievement" to have increased

both receipts and contribution to the national economy in the face of a deep and prolonged depression.

But he said that high foreign exchange earnings by United Kingdom shipping did not mean high profits. "The sad fact is that for some time now many of our ships, particularly in the bulk and tanker sectors, have been barely covering operating costs, let alone making a satisfactory return on capital."

Last year was the last in which British shipping's underlying strength was able to withstand the freight slump, and

several companies are seeking government help to tide them over.

These are mainly small-to-medium-size concerns, but even the big groups are being hit as the recession begins to affect liner trades. The Ocean Group last week reported half-yearly figures down from £26m to £23m.

The £1,035m figure is arrived at by deducting spending abroad on bunkers, etc. from gross export earnings of £1,212m. In addition United Kingdom ships saved £498m gross on imported freight and passenger fares.

Invisible Exports—UK Ships

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1 Total receipts (freight, passenger revenue, and time charter receipts from abroad and from UK non-shipowners)	815	999	1156	1186	1464	2002	2099	2452	2325
2 Receipts from abroad (export and cross voyage freights, passenger revenue collected abroad and time charter hire from abroad)	574	712	852	864	1100	1578	1647	2062	2127
3 Disbursements abroad (bunkers, canal dues, port and other expenses)	273	310	397	429	494	746	799	988	1092
4 Direct contribution to invisible exports (2 minus 3; i.e. receipts from abroad less disbursements abroad)	301	402	455	435	606	832	847	1074	1035
5 Freight on imports and passenger revenue collected in UK (1, e. minus 2)	241	287	304	322	364	424	452	450	493

UK ships are ships owned in the United Kingdom

£30m Rover expansion programme

A £30m expansion programme designed to meet world demand for Range Rovers and Land-Rovers will be completed by next spring, Jaguar Rover Triumph said last night. Production of Range Rovers will rise from 300 a week to 450 and of Land-Rovers by 10 per cent from the present 1,350 a week.

An even larger programme is being prepared with the aim of almost doubling production of the two vehicle types by 1982.

While work on updating production facilities at Solihull at engine and transmission factories in the Birmingham area is continuing, a £250m investment plan will be put to the British Leyland board in London in the next few weeks.

At present Jaguar Rover Triumph can meet only 60 per cent of the demand for its four-wheel drive vehicles, while holding 15 per cent of the world four-wheel drive market.

There is a two-year waiting list, and many other companies, notably the Japanese have taken advantage of the vacuum left by Leyland's inability to produce enough vehicles.

JRT believes the proposed investment will not be too late to fight off further competition by 1982.

Cutlery makers accused of 'misleading claims' to bolster case for protection

In brief

Britain's ailing cutlery industry, which has been attempting to persuade the Government to curb cheap imports, has been criticized by the British Importers Confederation for being "far from accurate" in the apparent facts it presents and the conclusions which it draws.

Mr Dennis Statham, the confederation chairman, has asked for an urgent meeting with Mr Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, to discuss the "relentless efforts" being made by certain sections of the cutlery industry to obtain import controls.

The confederation's view was that once import restraints were established they would be used as a barrier behind which the cutlery industry would hide at the expense of the consumer.

The confederation has dismissed as "an outrageously misleading claim" the cutlery manufacturers' view that between 5,000 and 8,000 more jobs would be created within five years by drastically restricting imports.

"It is meaningless to talk about unfair competition from abroad if the British industry is incapable of meeting demands of the home market."

Fears over shortages in computer manpower

The possibility of serious manpower shortages in computers and computing in the mid-1980s has led the National

Economic Development Office's electronic computers sector working party to mount a detailed study of manpower prospects for the industry.

The £30,000 study will be carried out by the Institute of Manpower Studies assisted by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, which will report to the manpower subcommittee of the working party.

For a number of reasons, the working party believes, the structure of the computer industry is likely to change considerably by the mid-1980s. Starting from an examination of the main factors for change, the study will aim to assess the probable new profile of the sector and users of its products.

Ford computer link with Detroit

Design engineers at Ford's research and engineering centre at Dunton, Essex, now have access to one of the world's fastest general-purpose commercial computers, located at the parent company's engineering centre at Dearborn, Detroit.

The central computer, a Cyber 176 supplied by Control Data Corporation, is linked on a time-sharing basis to Dunton and other Ford locations in North America, Europe and the

Asia-Pacific region. As well as speeding up the design process for the company's cars and trucks, the system will provide a colour video display to depict computed stresses.

Building material sales rise by 20 pc

Further evidence of an upturn in construction activity is provided in the latest figures for sales of building materials. During June these were 20.5 per cent up on the same month last year, according to the National Federation of Builders' and Plumbers' Merchants.

All regions showed increases, the largest being for the Midlands (35.5 per cent) and the North West (29.7 per cent). The poorest performer was the North East, where the increase in sales was limited to 9.5 per cent.

N Sea oil output up slightly in July

Britain's North Sea oil production rose to 4.5 million tonnes last month, and forecasts of total production this year of between 55 million tonnes and 65 million tonnes may be reached. Production in July was 60.2 tonnes above the previous month's figures but was down on the May level of 4.58 million tonnes.

Bass chief denies Tory donations

By Edward Teverend

Mr Derek Palmer, chairman of Bass Charrington, Britain's leading brewery, has taken the unusual step of assuring employees that the company does not subscribe to political party funds.

In a statement, Mr Palmer said it was totally incorrect to allege that the company had donated the use of poster sites to the Conservative Party. Subject to the approval of the Poster Trade Association, the sites were available for release to any political party on application and on payment of the full rent to the poster agents.

Mr Palmer also stressed that Bass Charrington "has never made a donation to any political party."

He was replying to politicians who, he said, had fallen victims to election fever in making wildly inaccurate attacks on the brewing industry.

His comments follow an investigation conducted by *Investors Chronicle* which discounted claims that commerce and industry were donating vast sums to the Conservative Party.

Referring to continued government pressure for more "pub swaps" to reduce local brewery monopolies, Mr Palmer said: "This country should be proud of the unique British pub system which is admired by visiting tourists and provides a better target to attack."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pay not the only reward of skilled work

From Professor A. Kennaway

Sir, Much recently expressed dissatisfaction is based on the assumption that the more the skill, the greater the learning needed in a job, the higher should be the pay. Thus the technician demands more than the semi-skilled; the scientist, engineer, doctor much more than the secretary or dustman.

But this is not the only criterion by which to decide pay. For many years firms with job evaluation schemes have included the degree of responsibility (which supports higher pay for the higher echelons), risk, dirt, unpleasantness and physical effort (which usually support the opposite).

What has changed the hierarchy of reward is that many unskilled people with jobs where the latter category, plus that of boredom, predominate

can demand and get higher rates of pay than those of more skilled. This may be partly due to the floor set by unemployment pay, which quite properly allows a small family a decent existence. So if the job provides only money as a satisfaction there is no reason why it should be done unless it offers significantly more than the dole. There remains only a sense of pride in keeping oneself and that is possessed by few.

Here, it is hard to get dustmen or one's garden dug at rates that are not somewhat above those paid to skilled tool-makers. In Israel professors get less than truck-drivers; in the USSR local GPs less than tram-drivers. But the former are not abandoning their careers for the latter, nor are the universities and medical schools short of candidates. This is because the majority recog-

nizes that vocational training to a high standard and education in themselves lead to jobs and a life with high rewards other than money and indeed that there is a chance of getting much more money later, something that the unskilled cannot look forward to.

It is sad to see those with an education doubting whether they should encourage the young to get the same simply on financial grounds. Maybe society should become glad to find people to do those jobs that the better-educated do not want to do—even at rates higher than they receive themselves.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNAWAY,
Professor of Chemical Engineering,
Imperial College,
London SW7,
August 29.

Product liability and social justice

From Mr A. P. Benson

Sir, May I add a few words to the correspondence provoked by Mr Grylls' article (August 1) on product liability matters. I am not the questions underlying this issue extremely simple? Essentially do they not centre on the following points?

Acknowledging the desirability of providing financial compensation for the victims of misfortune (including accidents in the home, incurable illness, accidents at school and the like) is it socially desirable to single out for special treatment the victims of product-related injury?

If current law provides inadequate remedies for this latter class of persons must it be so radically amended as to effect to create a new specially privileged class of unfortunate?

Is it recognized that the current proposals in this regard have very considerable adverse social implications—a probable reduction in socially-beneficial innovation by industry, a reduction in competitive edge, an increase in effective retrospective legislation, etc?

Are consumers aware of and willing to meet the full costs (social and economic) involved?

Is the proposed method of administering what is effectively a social compensation fund the cheapest and most efficient that can be offered to consumers? Are the technical problems involved in dealing with liability claims fully appreciated, and is the depletion of the available premiums and profits by brokers' commissions and by legal costs in the best interests of consumers overall?

Is not the proper role of the State to assume the administration of a compensation fund financed through the taxation system, unencumbered by profit considerations, and able to enforce recoveries against producers who have negligently caused injury by marketing defective products?

Social justice, economics and logic all seem to suggest that an approach to the problem on these lines would be more in the overall national interest than the proposals presently under consideration.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. BENSON,
"Jennetts",
28 Longdene Road,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
August 25.

A fair wage for bilingual secretaries

From Miss Virginia Fox

Sir, Although I would basically agree with the views expressed by Mr Michael Green in his letter on August 22, I think that two of his statements call for a response.

First, although Britain is way behind in the language stakes, I am sure Mr Green would agree that, nonetheless, tremendous progress has been made over the last five years insofar as linguistic requirements are concerned. The whole employment field has opened up considerably in recent years to produce an increasing "flow" of business and employment between England and other countries, and any go-ahead company these days realises the worth of having employees with linguistic abilities.

However, to carry on to Mr Green's main comment, I would reply that, if they had any sense, multinational secretaries should also find themselves seeking employment abroad! As a bilingual secre-

tary myself, over the past ten years I have spent more time working abroad than in England, and although I will return to England at the end of this year it will not be to a bilingual secretarial post.

Yes, Mr Green, you are most probably correct in your assumption that British employers are more interested in their secretaries' linguistic abilities rather than their managers, because that way they can get cheap labour. Apart from the few really executive positions which are advertised, there is very little difference (if any) between the salaries offered to junior secretaries, typist/secretaries, secretary/PAs and bi- or multi-lingual secretaries (many of these latter posts requiring foreign-language shorthand as well).

Because employers can recruit secretaries with linguistic abilities without having to pay anything extra for the benefit of having these qualifications at their disposal, it follows, surely, that these same

employers are unlikely to employ a manager with linguistic abilities at an extra cost to the firm unless it is absolutely essential.

The sooner highly qualified secretaries decide only to accept the sort of salaries which reflect their capabilities, the sooner employers will find that they have to pay if they want someone worthwhile and, hopefully, that will mean that anyone who requires one or more foreign languages for their work will be paid for this ability.

In the meantime Mr Green, you, I and the countless hundreds of other willing workers with this problem, will have to content ourselves with working abroad—which may not be quite like home but at least does offer us hope!

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA FOX,
rue Edouard Racine,
1202 Geneva,
Switzerland,
August 25.

WEIR

THE WEIR GROUP LIMITED INTERIM STATEMENT

Results for 25 weeks ended 23rd June, 1978

Subject to Audit
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	25 weeks to 23rd June 1978 £'000s	25 weeks to 24th June 1977 £'000s	52 weeks to 30th Dec. 1977 £'000s
TURNOVER			
The Group	87,542	81,380	160,432
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAX			
The Group	5,236	5,392	10,722
Associated Companies	540	576	1,217
	5,776	5,968	11,939
Interest payable less receivable	1,260	1,438	2,816
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	4,516	4,530	9,123
Estimated Tax	1,800	1,900	3,197
PROFIT AFTER TAX	2,716	2,630	5,926
Profit attributable to Minority Interests	85	141	188
PROFIT BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	2,831	2,489	5,738
Extraordinary Items: Add (Deduct)	359	(158)	(2,744)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE WEIR GROUP LTD.	2,990	2,331	2,994
EARNINGS PER SHARE	10.6p	10.0p	23.0p

INTERIM DIVIDEND
An interim dividend of 1.8634p per share (1977: 1.694p) will be paid to Shareholders for the 52 weeks ending 28th December, 1978. Payment, absorbing £405,000, will be made on 8th January, 1979 to Members on the Register at close of business on 4th December, 1978.

TRADING AND PROSPECTS
Profit before tax for the first six months of the year was virtually unchanged from that earned in either half of 1977. This result was achieved against a background of difficult trading conditions, particularly for our foundries

where profits were adversely affected by the lowest level of United Kingdom demand experienced for several years by the steel casting industry.

However, our main engineering subsidiary, Weir Pumps Ltd., performed well and good progress was made by Weir Westgarth Ltd. in their programme of desalination plant construction.

As predicted at our Annual General Meeting, the incidence of contract cancellations should lead to improved profits for the second half and it is therefore expected that 1978 as a whole will show an improvement on the results of the previous year.

WEIR
THE WEIR GROUP LTD

The Weir Group Limited Cathcart Glasgow G44 4EX

Study of unemployment patterns

Upturn in economy is main hope for young jobless

Young people have been hit particularly hard by the rise in unemployment, but the number of young people without jobs could drop dramatically if the economy as a whole picks up.

The latest issue of the Department of Employment Gazette says that some of the explanations which have been put forward for the rise in unemployment among the young are incorrect. Some of the reasons suggested are that employers have been discouraged by Government measures to protect existing jobs; that changes in rules governing the registration of school leavers might have led more of them to register; and that more women may now be registering as unemployed.

The DoE study suggests that youth unemployment moves in step with the overall rate of unemployment but with larger variations.

For male workers, a 1 per cent increase in unemployment will lead to a 1.7 per cent increase in the youth unemployment rate. Among female workers a 1 per cent increase leads to a 3 per cent increase among the young. If overall unemployment were to fall, the study concludes, there might be a much more rapid drop in youth unemployment.

15m hours overtime

Department of Employment figures show that a total of 15.1 million hours of overtime was worked in manufacturing

industry in the week ending June 10.

Just over 1,750,000 workers did overtime during that week, an average of 8.5 hours for each worker.

The coal and oil industries recorded the most overtime, with an average 10.9 hours for each person doing overtime.

Over 34 per cent of all workers did overtime in the week under study, but there were wide variations. Only 8.2 per cent of workers in the clothing and footwear industries worked overtime. In mechanical engineering, the figure was 45.2 per cent.

Strike losses down
Days lost through strikes in July totalled 311,000, making it the best month this year and bringing the total lost so far to 3,665,000 days compared to 4,366,000 in the first seven months of 1977.

Some 12,000 workers were on strike during the period and roughly 60 per cent of the strikes had begun before the start of the month.

More jobs for women
There was an increase of about 14,000 in the number of people employed by industries covered by the Index of Production the month to mid-June. Some 8,000 of the extra jobs went to women. But overall there were 57,000 fewer people with jobs than in the same period in 1977.

Business appointments

Oceaneering board moves

Mr J. G. S. Gammell, chairman of Ivory and Sims, the Edinburgh-based investment management group, is to join the board of Oceaneering International. Mr Cecil Wootton becomes chairman of Oceaneering.

Mr R. T. Collet has been made financial director of Tithill Forestry Advisory.

Mr Harry Everitt will be joining the board of Robert Fleming & Co from his post as a director of the Guinness Peat Group and a managing director of Guinness Mahon.

pointed to Brussels as European director of business and market development. PTT Business Systems, UK, by Mr Peter Benson, now marketing manager. Mr Geoffrey Meadowcroft moves from general sales manager to head the group's data systems division, succeeding Mr Jim Ford, now chief executive.

Mr G. S. Ruia, Mr N. Musry, Mr H. Hallowell and Mr B. Tomlinson have been appointed directors of K. O. Boardman International.

Mr Donald Bailey has been appointed to the board of G. B. Britton.

LONDON UNITED INVESTMENTS LTD. INTERIM RESULTS

	Six months to 30 June, 78 £'000's	Six months to 30 June, 77 £'000's	Year to 31 Dec. 77 £'000's
Turnover	8,055	6,930	16,718
Operating profit:			
Insurance	1,756	1,273	3,279
Other	80	173	546
	1,836	1,446	3,825
Group overheads	224	210	347
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	1,612	1,236	3,478
Taxation	804	614	1,929
	808	622	1,549
Extraordinary items less transfers from reserves	1	12	118
Profit available for distribution	807	610	1,431
Cost of dividend	214	180	360

An interim dividend of 2.5p net per share (1977—2.10288p) will be paid on 19 October, 1978 to shareholders on the register as at 20 September, 1978.

Copies of the Interim Report may be obtained from The Secretary, 2021 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3ED.

BOC

BOC International Ltd

Airco became a wholly owned subsidiary in May 1978. In the results for the nine months to 30 June 1978, shown below, Airco has been consolidated as from 1 October 1977. The results for the nine months are therefore on a basis different from that of earlier periods when Airco was treated as an associated company.

Group profit, unaudited, for the nine months 1.10.77 to 30.6.78, was:—

	A Nine months 1.10.77 to 30.6.78	B Nine months 1.10.76 to 30.6.77	C Year 1.10.76 to 30.6.77
Group sales	110.77	110.76	110.76
Operating costs	30.6.78	30.6.77	30.6.77
Depreciation	124.8	83.5	114.5
Group share of associated companies' profits, less losses	2.8	17.7	23.0
GROUP TRADING PROFIT	28.5	75.2	101.8
Europe	17.0	38.5	39.5
Africa	11.5	11.1	18.7
Americas	42.0	15.7	19.9
Asia	3.2	3.6	4.9
Pacific	14.8	15.1	20.8
GROUP TRADING PROFIT	89.5	75.2	101.8
Less Airco adjustment (note 1)	20.4	—	—
Interest	68.1	75.2	101.8
Tax	19.3	14.8	19.6
GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAX	49.8	60.4	82.2
Minorities	24.4	29.1	47.1
AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL	18.1	23.4	38.4
Earnings per share (adjusted for Rights Issue)	5.60p	8.70p	14.49p

Condensed balance sheet, unaudited as at 30 June 1978

	At 30.6.78	At 31.3.78	At 30.9.77
Shareholders' funds	£ million	£ million	£ million
Minority shareholders' interests	516.5	397.9	384.5
Deferred taxation and capital grants	68.2	65.2	61.7
Net borrowings and finance leases	19.6	18.1	19.3
	512.9	230.7	153.6
	1,115.3	712.0	619.1
Fixed assets	809.4	433.3	401.4
Associated companies and investments	24.5	152.0	97.3
Working capital (excluding bank balances and short term loans)	281.9	126.7	120.4
	1,115.8	712.0	619.1

NOTES

1) The results of Airco have been accounted for as follows:

1977/78

(a) In column A, as a subsidiary company. Group sales and trading profit therefore include 100% of Airco for the full nine months. Of the trading profit of the Americas (£42.0 million), £40.9 million relates to Airco.

(b) The Airco adjustment eliminates that part of Airco's trading profit attributable to outside shareholders in the period before Airco became a subsidiary.

1976/77

(c) In columns B and C, as an associated company. Group results therefore include 34% of the profit before tax of Airco for nine months and twelve months respectively.

2) The Group's third quarter profit was depressed by the poor results of the ferro alloys business of Airco and of the metals businesses in Europe and Africa. There was little sign of improvement in the level of activity of the Group's other main businesses in Europe.

3) Sterling strengthened only marginally over the three months to 30 June 1978 and the effect on Group profit before tax was not material.

4) The Group's policy includes revaluing assets on to a replacement cost basis and charging depreciation on the revalued amounts. The practice has been extended progressively to cover further classes of assets (including those of Airco) so that most of the Group's assets are now shown in the Balance Sheet on a revalued basis. The depreciation arising from the revaluation of further classes of assets during the current year (including those of Airco) is estimated at £5 million for the nine months, which has been charged in arriving at the Group trading profit of £88.5 million.

Further copies of this report may be obtained from the Secretary, BOC International Ltd., Hammersmith House, London, W6 8DX. Tel. 01-748 2020.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Early rally in equities runs out of steam

An absence of buyers combined with some end-of-account profit-taking to knock the bottom out of an early rally on the stock market yesterday and shares drifted back throughout the rest of the session.

Hopes that some institutional interest would take prices higher had jobbers marking leaders better at the outset, but as it became apparent that there was little buying to be done, shares slipped back again.

Speculative Continental buying on hopes of a takeover added 2p to sugar importer and commodity broker, S. & W. Berisford yesterday. Group chairman, Mr Orman Castle, denies any approach, while rumoured-suitors, Unilever, refused to comment on the speculation last night.

The FT ordinary share index, after touching 506.6, ended the day with a dip of 2.8 at 503.3 and there are few signs that market that things will get any better before the end of the account.

Over the past five sessions, the index has fallen over 20 points from its ten-month high of 523.2. British funds had another quiet session, with investors, selling the market down at the shorter end. Higher interest rates in America took around three-eighths of short-dated gilts and dealers expect prices to go a bit easier yet. At the longer end, in light trade, stocks lost around an eighth on the day.

Of the leader-stocks nine-month figures above market expectations added 2p to BOC International at 69p and underpinned other index constituents. ICI at 397p ended 2p lower, while Glaxo at 615p eased 3p and Courtaulds at 114p and Boots at 227p shed a penny.

Beecham at 705p lost 3p, while news that the group's American division is recalling a pet anti-worm drug, Sansolid, could trim the shares back today.

In electricals, GEC shed 3p to 304p while bank was hit by profit-taking following the gain on the Toshiba deal and fell back 5p to 280p. Thorn at 382p lost 6p and Rascal at 316p was slashed 12p. Recently-volatile

Pilkington Brothers lost 8p to 620p.

Figures from Weir Group left the shares 3p lower at 126p while, elsewhere in engineers, GKN held steady at 284p and John Brown at 468p and Hawkers at 234p eased 2p. Ricardo continued to improve, adding 2p to 300p, but news that Whesoe could close one of its troubled factories clipped 5p from the equity at 66p.

A surprise rights issue from Howden left the shares unmoved at 84p, while a dividend-bossing rights package added 6p to rubber goods group BTR at 342p.

Some selling in front of the call lifted 1p off Lex Services 'new' at 6p and left the ordin-

ary a penny lower at 831p. H. J. Quick eased 1p to 431p despite good figures as speculative buyers closed their positions, while Lucas gave back a penny to 322p.

Higher profits at ripperrods added 6p to the shares at 68p, while Thurgar Baxed firmed a penny to 20p.

Late quarterly figures from Johnson Matthey which proved disappointing clipped 3p from the stock at 455p, while Johnson Richard Tiles gave up 2p to 100p and London United Investment slipped 3p to 185p. Grovebell lost 4p to 26p on a profits setback.

In stores, profit taking on the back of bid denials left Burton "A" 6p easier at 170p.

Alginat Industries fell 5p to 295p after a late announcement of continuing problems at strike-bound Scottish Steel while Wm Mowat, which announced earlier that it received an approach, added further 6p to 28p.

Audiotronic held steady 20p but the new cumulative preference, on issue at 10p, added with a 34p premium, have been 141p at one stage.

British Land seems poised to report a further reinforcement of its position, established in the recent accounts as one of the survivors of the proper crash. The balance sheet, which showed shareholders' funds £49m and a borrowing of £146.4m is due, observers say, to be strengthened soon another big disposal. The share is 43p.

Oils were mixed with Sleib climbing 30p to 386p on hope of an announcement soon on well being drilled on Bk 3/28.

Burmah also pushed ahead adding 4p to 80p following bullish brokers' circular and sale of its Australian oil interests.

Equity turnover on August was £74.069m (14,737 bargain Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph were ICI, GEC, Rank, Baxed, BOC, BF, Distillers, BAT, D Beechams, S. W. Berisford Lucas, Trafalgar House, U Leaver, Shell, Burton, V Mowat, Rascal, Pilkington a Thorn.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
BOC (I)	917.0(499.1)	48.8(60.4)	5.6(8.7)	—	—	—
BTR (I)	166.4(123.3)	17.9(13.4)	9.9(8.2)	5.5(4.2)	27/11	—
Cement-Roadstone (I)	182.8(68.5)	8.9(6.1)	1.52(1.17)	1.52(1.17)	7/10	—
Centrovincial (F)	—	0.16(0.024)	—	—	—	—
Fraser Ansbacher (F)	—	0.001(1.1)	—	—	—	—
Grovebell Grp (I)	2.2(2.0)	0.003(0.04)	—	0.5(0.5)	16/10	—
Grippeers Hlds (F)	8.8(6.3)	0.63(0.48)	12.4(8.9)	2.99(1.27)	1/11	4.6(3.5)
Johnson, Matthey	—	4.5(1.3)	—	—	—	—
Ldn Univ Inst (I)	8.0(5.9)	1.6(1.2)	—	2.5(1.1)	19/10	—
London (I)	—	—	—	2.4(2.33)	31/10	—
McSwift Indst (I)	5.3(4.3)	0.55(0.51)	2.75(2.57)	0.72(0.66)	2/10	—
H. & J. Quick (I)	29.5(22.1)	0.66(0.44)	6.0(4.0)	0.88(0.8)	2/10	—
Thos Robinson (I)	3.4(3.1)	0.39(0.36)	—	0.86(0.73)	12/10	—
Slough Estates (I)	—	3.7(3.1)	—	1.0(0.75)	16/10	—
Thurgar Baxed (I)	42.5(2.0)	0.22(0.08)	—	0.3(0.2)	5/10	—
Weir Grp (I)	487.5(81.3)	4.51(4.53)	10.6(10.0)	1.86(1.69)	8/1/79	—

Slough Estates' reversionary growth but losses at Centrovincial

By Ray Maughan

Reversionary growth and the strength of the industrial letting market helped Slough Estates to a pre-tax profit rise of slightly better than a fifth in the half-year to end-June. After mid-way profits of £75m, Britain's largest industrial developer must now be on course for something in the region of £7.5 to £8m this year and probably at the higher end of the range.

The quiet space in Sheffield and Brussels remains as it is in Slough's credit that net revenue is performing so well despite the policy of striking interest attributable to these vacant developments above the line. Chairman, Mr Nigel Mobbs, reports that demand for factory and warehouse space is "very encouraging", particularly in Slough, and the group now has about 600,000 sq ft under construction.

In the United States, the first phase of Elk Grove is now fully let and some 30 per cent of the 255,000 sq ft second phase has been leased. Slough expects the whole of the second stage to be let by March next year.

Conditions in Australia, France and Belgium have been described as "quiet", but about 50 per cent of the space in the Journal Shopping Centre has been forward sold to three major stores and building should be finished by the



Mr Nigel Mobbs, Slough Estates chairman.

Group plans to raise £88m francs (about £69m) by way of rights issue on the basis of one-for-six at 120 francs.

Cope's £3m American deal

Cope Allman International has acquired the American Sunbeam Plastics Corporation for \$5.75m (about £3m).

Sunbeam, which moulds child-resistant plastic closures and supplies large manufacturers of household cleaners and toiletries, made pre-tax profits of \$336,000 in 1977 and is forecasting an increase of \$564,000 for the current year.

Cope Allman, which is financing the deal from its own resources and existing dollar-loan facilities, wants Sunbeam to supply the group's moulding companies with advanced products. It is the group's first major expansion in the United States.

BRITISH PETROLEUM

Zurich.—The British Petroleum Company's 45m Swiss franc, 4.75 per cent bond, 1965-80, will be redeemed early at par on November 30, the Zurich Stock Exchange said. Bayer AG's 60m franc, 4.5 per cent bond, 1963-81, will be redeemed early at par on December 15.—Reuter.

MARSHALLS (HALIFAX)

Proposed scrip issue of preference shares in recognition of one 10 per cent cumulative preference share for every six ordinary shares.

LOCAL AUTHORITY BONDS

In the local authority bond market, the City of Stoke-on-Trent is raising £1m in 1980-81. The District Council and Northampton Borough Council, £500,000 each. Coupon is unchanged at 9 1/2 per cent.

THURGAR BAXED

Sales for 24 weeks to June 17 were £2.5m (£2.6m). Pre-tax profit £1,000 (£3,600). 1m 500,000 shares, 0.44p gross (0.29p gross). Board expects results for year to comfortably exceed last year.

GROVEBELL GROUP

Turnover for half-year to May 31 up from £2.02m to £2.25m, but pre-tax profits down from £44,257 to £3,162.

GRIPPEERS HOLDINGS

Turnover rose from £6.34m to £8.3m in year to April 30. Pre-tax profit, £51,000 (£64,000). Total gross dividend, 4.64p (3.58p).

H. & J. QUICK GROUP

Turnover for half-year to June 30, £29.5m (£22.1m). Pre-tax profit, £669,000 (£450,000).

NU-SWIFT INDUSTRIES

Turnover £2.2m, up 22 per cent to £3.34m in half-year to end-June. Pre-tax profits 7 per cent up to £551,000. Interim payment, 1.08p (1p). Outlook continues to be promising.

ELECTROCOMPONENTS

Chairman has no doubts that current year, which has started well, will end with still further profitable development. Board proposes one-for-one scrip.

JACQUES BOREL INTERNATIONAL

Consolidated gross billings for first half of 1978 up from 958m. French francs (about £123m). Consolidated net loss cut from 97m to 58m francs.

Briefly

AIRCRAFT COMPENSATION

In accordance with Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act, 1977, an issue of about £67.38m 34 per cent Treasury Stock, 1981, being made as compensation for unquoted securities of following companies: Hawker Siddeley Aviation; Hawker Siddeley Dynamics; Austin and Pickersgill. Issue of 93 per cent Treasury Stock, 1981, will be at rate of £100 Treasury Stock per £97 1/16 compensation.

SAINT-GOBAIN

Group plans to raise 588m francs (about £69m) by way of rights issue on the basis of one-for-six at 120 francs.

LONDON UNITED

London United Investments' turnover for half-year to June 30 rose from £6.93m to £8.85m. Profit, before tax and extraordinary items, £1.61m (£1.23m). Board confident full-year's profits will show "satisfactory increase".

Ibstock's £5m

US expansion

Brick manufacturer, Ibstock Johnson, is to increase its production capacity by half with the acquisition of the Marion Brick Corporation a subsidiary of Modura Corporation of Ohio.

The \$9m (about £5m) purchase of seven factories will enable Ibstock to produce 250 million bricks a year on top of its British and European capacity of 500m.

Chairman, Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, said the Marion should provide a 15 per cent return on investment in the first full year. Pre-tax profits were \$505,000 (£276,000) for the period ending May 31, 1978, but Mr Hyde-Thomson warned that second-half figures were unlikely to equal the first half because of seasonal fluctuations in the brick industry.

First-half growth at Pearl

An "exceptional" increase in ordinary branch new premiums is reported by Pearl Assurance for the six months to June 30. New annual premiums rose by 56 per cent to £7.5m, while single premiums and considerations rose from £3.27m to £5.04m. The main cause for this rise has been the group's success of its new deferred annuity contract for the self-employed which rocketed from £6.2m to £26.1m. An additional cause is the growth in the new-linked life business issued by its subsidiary, Pearl Assurance (Unit Funds), the figures for which have been included for the first time because of their size. Sums assured increased from £180.7m to £196.2m.

Weir interim standstill

Decline in the United Kingdom steel industry, including the lowest level of demand experienced for several years, left Weir Group, the Glasgow-based engineering concern, with pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £4.516m for the 25 weeks to June 23, 1978, compared with £4.530m for the same period last year.

However, desalination projects in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, negotiated by the group in the first half, are expected to pull its pre-tax profits up to a record £10m for the full year.

Last year, the group's total was £9.123m and the board is confident of an increase, despite a drop in steel foundry profits of almost 50 per cent compared

with 1977's contribution £4.7m.

The group is tendering for contracts for Middle East desalination projects and hopes this market will make up for the steel foundries' fall in profits. Weir Pumps is also a forming well, says the board. Weir Construction, an associate company in which Weir has a 49 per cent stake, made loss during the first half, but it is not expected to be

peaked. First-half turnover increased from £81.3m to £87.5m and interim dividend of 2.77p has been declared, again 2.56p. Last year's total was 7.25p and the group plans to pay a maximum-permitted 10p increase at the year end.

Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 2.17p gross, compared with 1.77p. News of the results sent the shares climbing 4p to 104p.

Looking to the second half, the group said that a delay in granting a price increase, for which it is still negotiating, already means that results of the cement division will be "quite inadequate". However, the management side is expected to

profits, while the favourable trend in the group's overseas operations is expected to

continue. Although sales of cement the home market exceeded expectations, with an increase in volume of 17.6 per cent, the profit of the cement division declined. Most of the blame for this is attributed to price controls. Other factors for the set-back included depreciation and interest charges coupled with the expense running-in the Platin extension.

However, the buoyant construction market in the group other operations managed to offset the setback in its cement manufacturing division.

Cement-Road up by a third

By Michael Clark

A strong performance from the non-cement side of Cement-Roadstone has lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to 34.9 per cent to £8.9m.

This was achieved on sales up from £58.6m to £82.8m. Earnings a share of the group, which is Ireland's biggest industrial company, increased by 28.7 per cent to 6.06p.

Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 2.17p gross, compared with 1.77p. News of the results sent the shares climbing 4p to 104p.

Looking to the second half, the group said that a delay in granting a price increase, for which it is still negotiating, already means that results of the cement division will be "quite inadequate". However, the management side is expected to

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However, the buoyant construction market in the group other operations managed to offset the setback in its cement manufacturing division.

Howden Group's

£2.4m 'rights'

A one-for-four rights issue at 64p a share to raise about £2.4m has been proposed by the Howden Group, which designs and makes air, gas and fluid handling equipment.

It is the Glasgow-based group's first rights issue in over 20 years and will be the subject of an EGM next month.

While no profits forecast has been made, the directors intend to recommend dividends for the year to April 30, 1979, of 7.01p gross, an increase of 15 per cent.

Marginal profit at Fraser

Fraser Ansbacher, the merchant banking and mortgage concern, has continued to

back from the brink in the year to the end of March. The group managed a pre-tax profit of £14,000 at a loss the previous year £1.1m although after tax it is a net loss of £57,000, which rises to £241,000 after extraordinary items relating to provisions N.A. 111 Wall Street, New York 10015, or, at the option of the holder thereof, at the following:

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Citibank N.A., Piazza Della Repubblica 2, Milan, Italy
Kreditbank S.A., Luxembourg, 43 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Amoco Oil Holdings S.A.

5 1/4% Guaranteed Bonds Series A Due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Indenture dated as of October 1, 1965 made between Amoco Oil Holdings S.A. and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, as Trustee, \$1,470,000 principal amount of the above described Bonds are hereby called for redemption on October 1, 1978 through the operation of the Sinking Fund at the principal amount thereof and accrued interest to the redemption date. The Bonds to be redeemed which have been drawn by lot by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Trustee, are as follows:

Coupon Bonds of prefix "TM" bearing the distinctive number in the following list two digits:

01 05 08 11 17 21 23 25 28 31 33 36 42 44 46 50 54 57 61 64 70 74 78 80 84 88 92

Also the Coupon Bonds in the denomination of \$1,000 bearing the following numbers:

M10890 M11198 M12716 M12896 M12789 M17849 M18899

Payment of the redemption price plus accrued interest on October 1, 1978 will be made in such coin or

Gilts fall back

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

High Low Stock										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E										Price Chgs % P/E			
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